

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

The WWII heroes who hunted Hitler's U-boat wolfpacks

HISTORY

REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

William Shakespeare

HOW DID THIS YOUNG
'UPSTART CROW' COME
TO BE ENGLAND'S
GREATEST BARD?

PLUS

Samuel Pepys
Amritsar Massacre
April Fools
London Underground

THE REAL ASSASSIN'S CREED

Meet the ruthless murderers
who ruled the Middle East

RICHARD THE LIONHEART

How the medieval king
was killed by a boy

ÆTHELFLEAD THE GREAT?

Why King Alfred's daughter
should be better known



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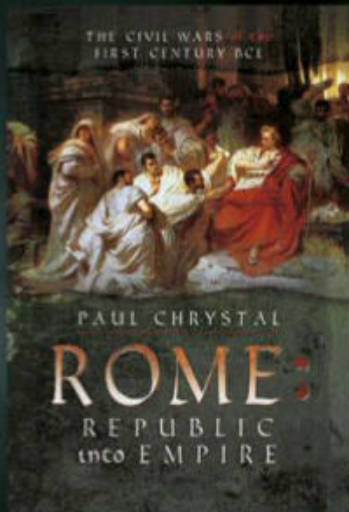
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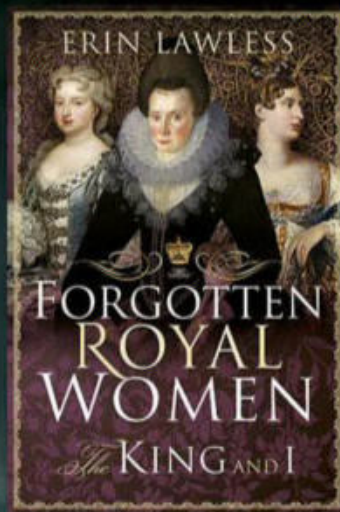
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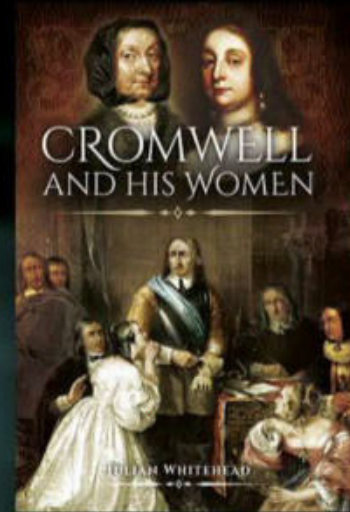
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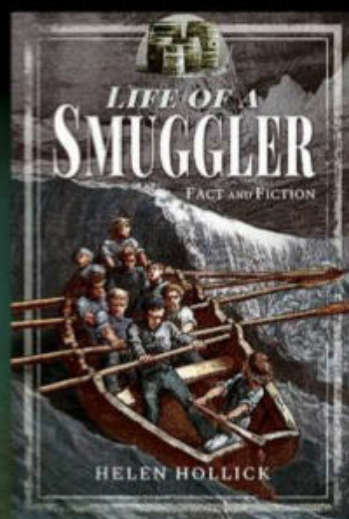
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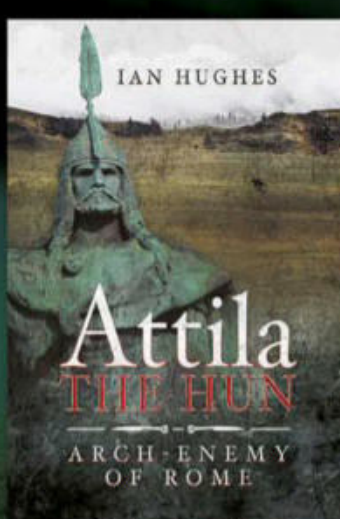
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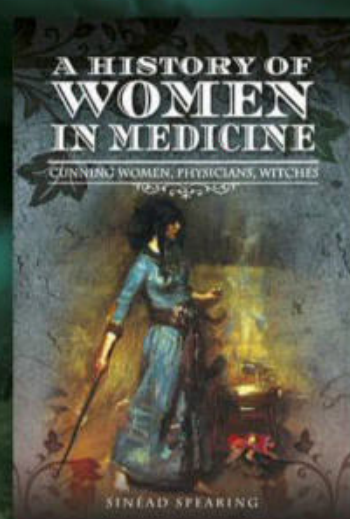
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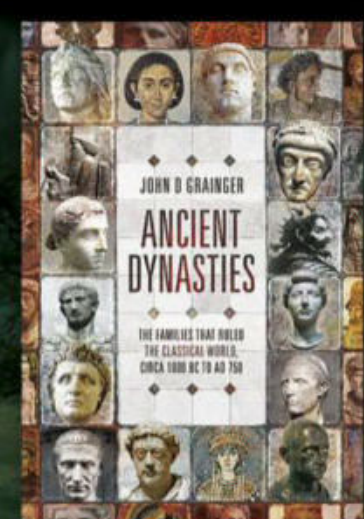
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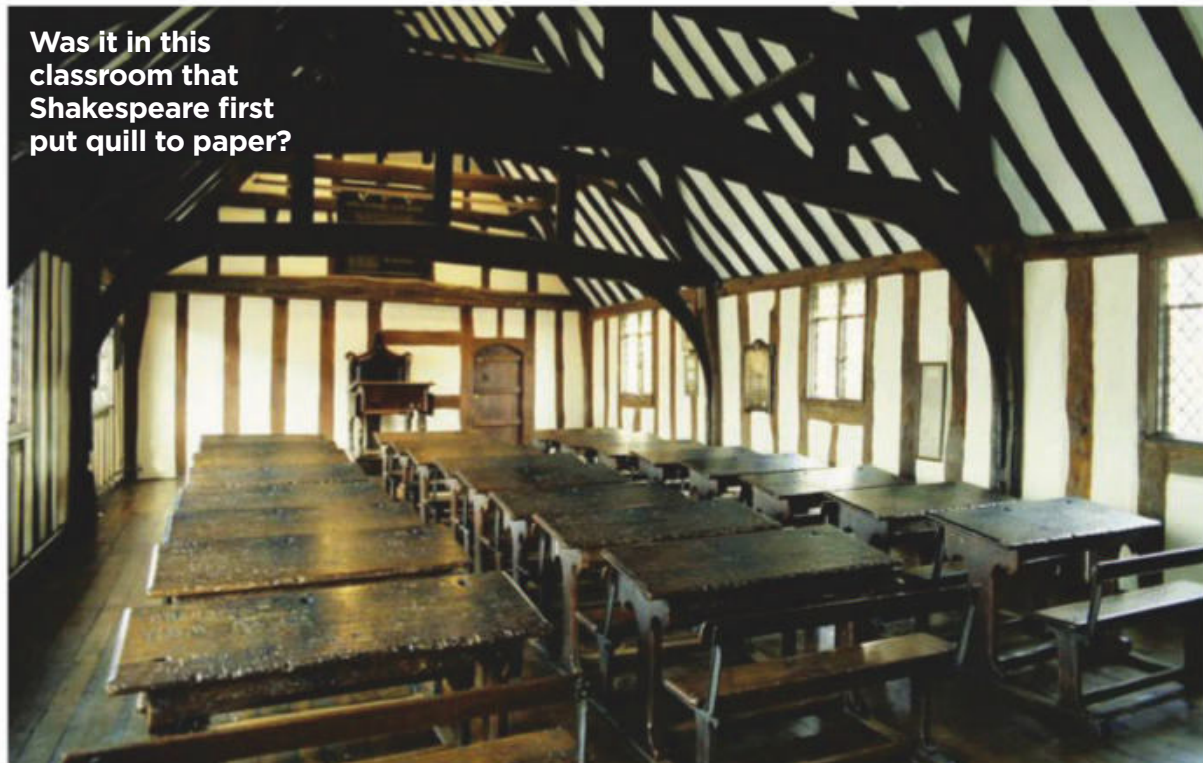
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PEN & SWORD BOOKS LTD

Was it in this classroom that Shakespeare first put quill to paper?



Where there's a will...



"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." It has been over 400 years since **England's most celebrated writer** shuffled off this mortal coil. In that time, his influence on the written word is pretty much unrivalled. And yet we know **so little of his own story**. But as research continues to unearth further clues to the details of his life, we ask how this **upstart crow** came to be so celebrated (p42).

Given **the Bard's love** of writing about history, one can only imagine what he would have made of the drama of World War II. This issue, we explore one of **the most terrifying fields of combat** in that conflict – namely the Battle of the Atlantic, as civilians and seamen alike took their chances against the **U-boat wolfpacks** that terrorised Britain's vital lifeline (p58).

Our **rich tapestry** continues with features about **medieval assassins** (p35), England's forgotten **founding mother** (p28), and the brutal actions of the **British in India** (p52) – and so much more!

Paul

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our May issue, on sale 18 April

CONTRIBUTORS



Gavin Mortimer
Writer and historian, specialising in the Special Forces during WWII, Gavin divides his time between London and Paris. See page 58



Hallie Rubenhold
Historian Hallie's latest book, *The Five*, is the first major biography of the five women killed by Jack the Ripper. See page 17



Hareth Al Bustani
The assassins feared across the Muslim world, who inspired a video game series are brought to life by freelance journalist Hareth. See page 35

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

1,650

Estimated number of bullets fired into the crowd at Amritsar. The massacre lasted ten minutes, killing hundreds and injuring many more. See page 52.

210

The price in guineas that Thomas Cook charged for an around-the-world tour in 1872 – tickets included a paddle steamer to Japan and a US stage-coach trip. Bargain! See page 50.

80

Official combat victories won by German fighter pilot Manfred von Richthofen – famously known as the Red Baron – before he was shot down in 1918 over France. See page 75.

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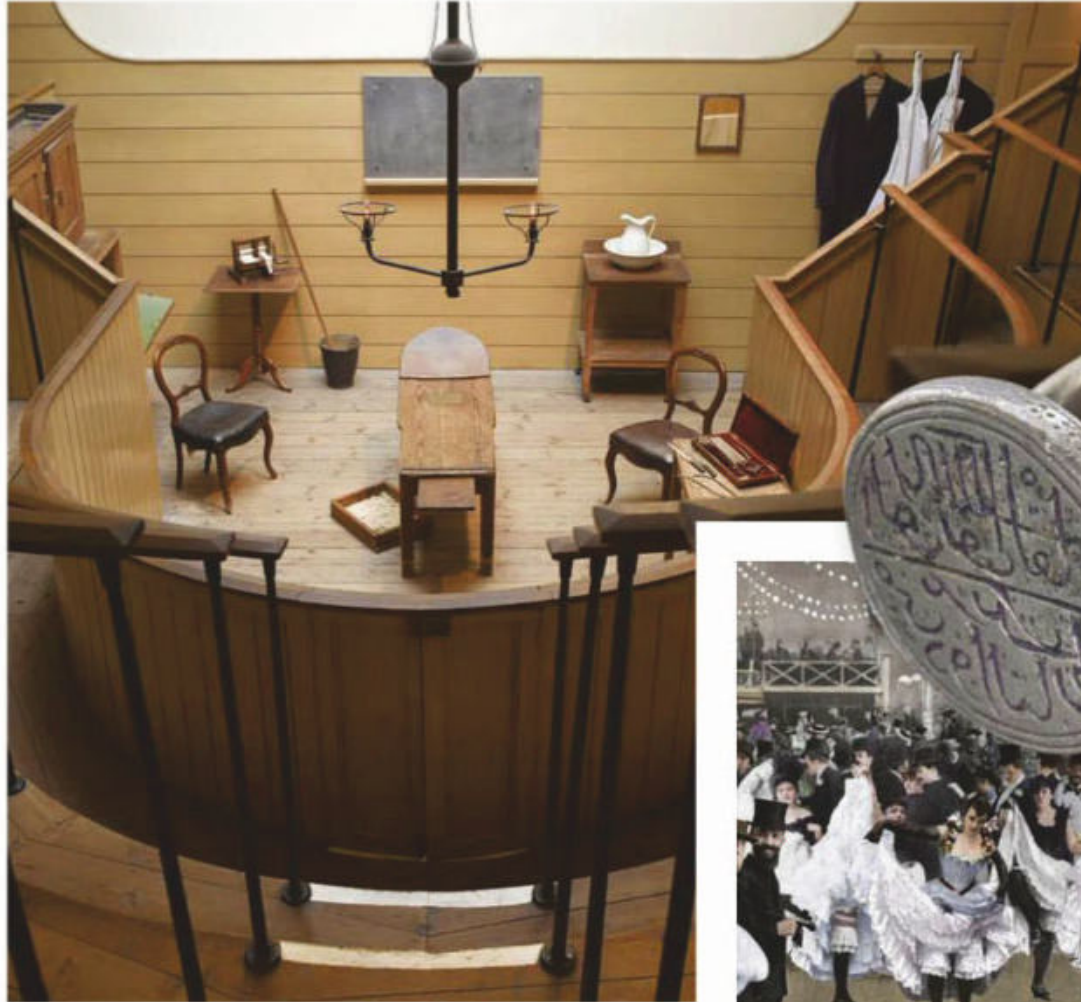
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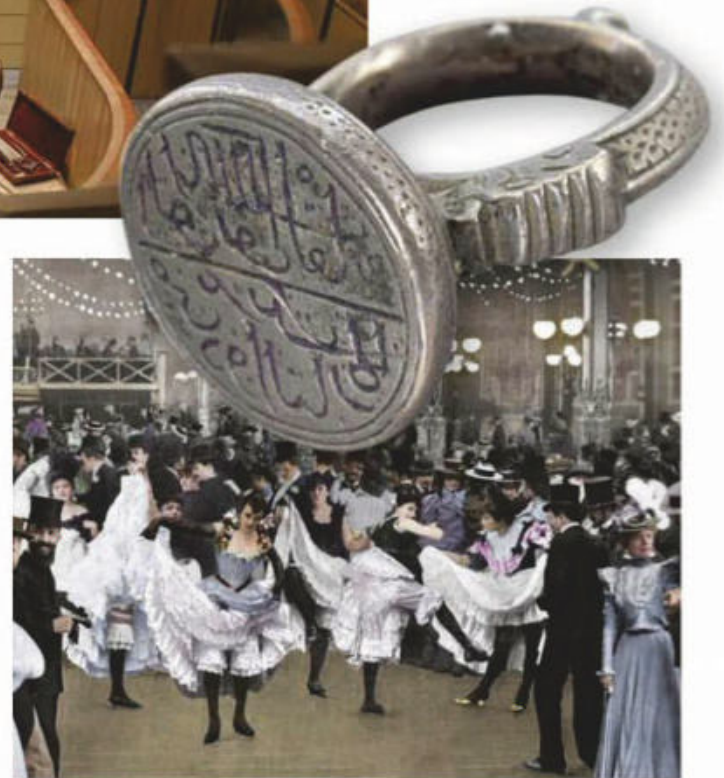
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**LIKE IT?
SUBSCRIBE!**

More details on
our special offer
on **p26**



1933 DEFYING GRAVITY

As the clouds part over the Himalayas, the four men of the Houston-Mount Everest expedition team become the first to see the world's highest mountain from above. Headed by RAF squadron leader Douglas Douglas-Hamilton, or Lord Clydesdale, in a modified Westland PV-3 biplane, the pioneering flight is a test for man and machine – and the cameras on board. Dust prevents any usable images being taken, so Clydesdale and the team go up again on 19 April and capture a collection of awe-inspiring photos and footage. It would be another 20 years before Everest is conquered by foot.



1957 ROYAL EXPOSURE

Elizabeth II is normally the one in front of the camera, but the Queen enjoys being behind the lens too, as seen here at the Badminton Horse Trials with her sister, Princess Margaret. They are treated to see Sheila Wilcox win for her first of three consecutive years at Badminton. An amateur photographer for years, Elizabeth apparently still carries a camera in her handbag when on important visits.





1942 GOT THE HUMP

Not a common sight for New Yorkers: camels strolling across Fifth Avenue. It must mean that the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has come to town. The famed circus has been granted special permission by President Roosevelt to use the railroads during World War II. It is believed the boost to morale for seeing the 'Greatest Show on Earth' is more important than travel restrictions.





In war and in peace

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES HAS BEEN HELPING THOSE IN NEED FOR 100 YEARS

This year on the 5 May, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will celebrate its centenary. The British Red Cross was one of the five founding members of the IFRC in 1919, alongside the French, American, Italian and Japanese Red Cross Societies.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent movement initially focused on supporting the sick and wounded in wartime, but the end of WWI saw many national societies also take on a peacetime role. The new League of Red Cross Societies (as it was then known) was designed to help coordinate international peacetime Red Cross humanitarian support.

In the words of the League's original founding Articles of Association, it was

created to enable collaboration "in the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering". Today, the IFRC comprises 190 individual national societies, ensuring there is a worldwide network of on-the-ground volunteers ready for when disaster strikes.

The British Red Cross has always been an important partner of the IFRC. The beginnings of its own peacetime humanitarian work are closely linked to the founding of the original League. In fact, the charity provided the League's first Director General, Sir David Henderson, and the Supplemental Royal Charter of December 1919 explicitly recognised the right of the British Red Cross to support peacetime first aid and disaster relief work.



Left Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses with D-Day veterans (1945)



Above A British Red Cross nurse spoon-feeds a Kenyan child as his mother watches on (1981)

BE A PART OF THE MOVEMENT

The work carried out by the British Red Cross is as essential today as it was in 1919. It's thanks to the generosity of the charity's supporters that it can always be ready to help those in crisis, whether they're on the other side of the world or on your own street.

By leaving a gift in your will, you can leave your own legacy and ensure that the British Red Cross can continue to support vulnerable people – for the next 100 years and beyond.



The Red Cross distributes aid packages to victims of the Indonesian earthquake (2018)

For more information about supporting the British Red Cross with a gift in your will and the Free Will scheme, call 0300 500 0401 or visit redcross.org.uk/freewill

Giving you a fresh perspective on the events and findings from history

HISTORY IN THE NEWS



The initial geophysical surveys being carried out at Collyweston

SEARCH BEGINS TO FIND MARGARET BEAUFORT'S PALACE

Collyweston Palace in Northamptonshire may have been as large as Hampton Court

Work has begun to rediscover a lost palace that was once home to Margaret Beaufort, grandmother of Henry VIII. One of the most powerful women of her time, Margaret was given the Northamptonshire manor by her son Henry VII in 1485.

The project was voted on by members of the local historical society. "Each year the members of Collyweston Historical Society are asked which subjects they would like to know more about," says Chris Close, Chairman of the Collyweston Historical Society. "The members gave a resounding response that they wanted to learn more about our palace and our society started a major project to find the location of the palace."

Early geophysical surveys have been carried out to identify archaeological remains that could be worth investigating.

In 1499, Margaret took a vow of chastity, although she was still married to her fourth husband, Thomas Stanley. She went to live alone at Collyweston and made considerable improvements. Henry VIII's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy, was a later occupant of the house.

"We are unsure of the physical size of the palace at this stage," explains Close, "but we believe that it was of significant importance as it included a dungeon, library, great hall and chapel, to name but a few. Like many buildings of its time,

the palace fell into disrepair at some point in the late 16th century before being completely removed."

A tithe barn and terrace are all that remains of the palace, the site of which is around three miles south-west of Stamford. The bulk of archaeology will take place over the summer. An open weekend is planned, where the findings will be released to the public.



The bronze effigy of Margaret Beaufort at Westminster Abbey

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It's 1973 and the UK is joining the EECp18



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IN THE NEWS

CHARLES DICKENS TRIED TO SEND HIS WIFE TO AN ASYLUM

The adulterous author made desperate attempts to end his marriage

The breakdown of Charles Dickens' marriage has long been a source of gossip and speculation. Letters have now been uncovered that show Dickens tried to have his wife declared as mentally unstable.

The renowned Victorian writer married Catherine Hogarth in 1836, the same year he found fame with his first novel *The Pickwick Papers*. They had ten children, but their marriage was not a happy one – Charles appeared to blame his wife for their ever-increasing and expensive brood of children. Previous reports of the marriage breakdown have always been from Charles's point of view, but letters analysed by the University of York have uncovered Catherine's story.

When Dickens was 45, he fell in love with 18-year-old actress Ellen Ternan and this relationship would prove to be the death-knell of his marriage. By the summer of 1858, Charles and Catherine had separated after a bracelet meant

for Ellen had been mistakenly delivered to the Dickens household, causing Catherine to confront her husband.

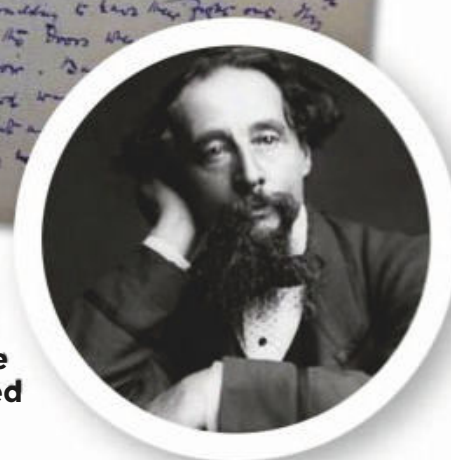
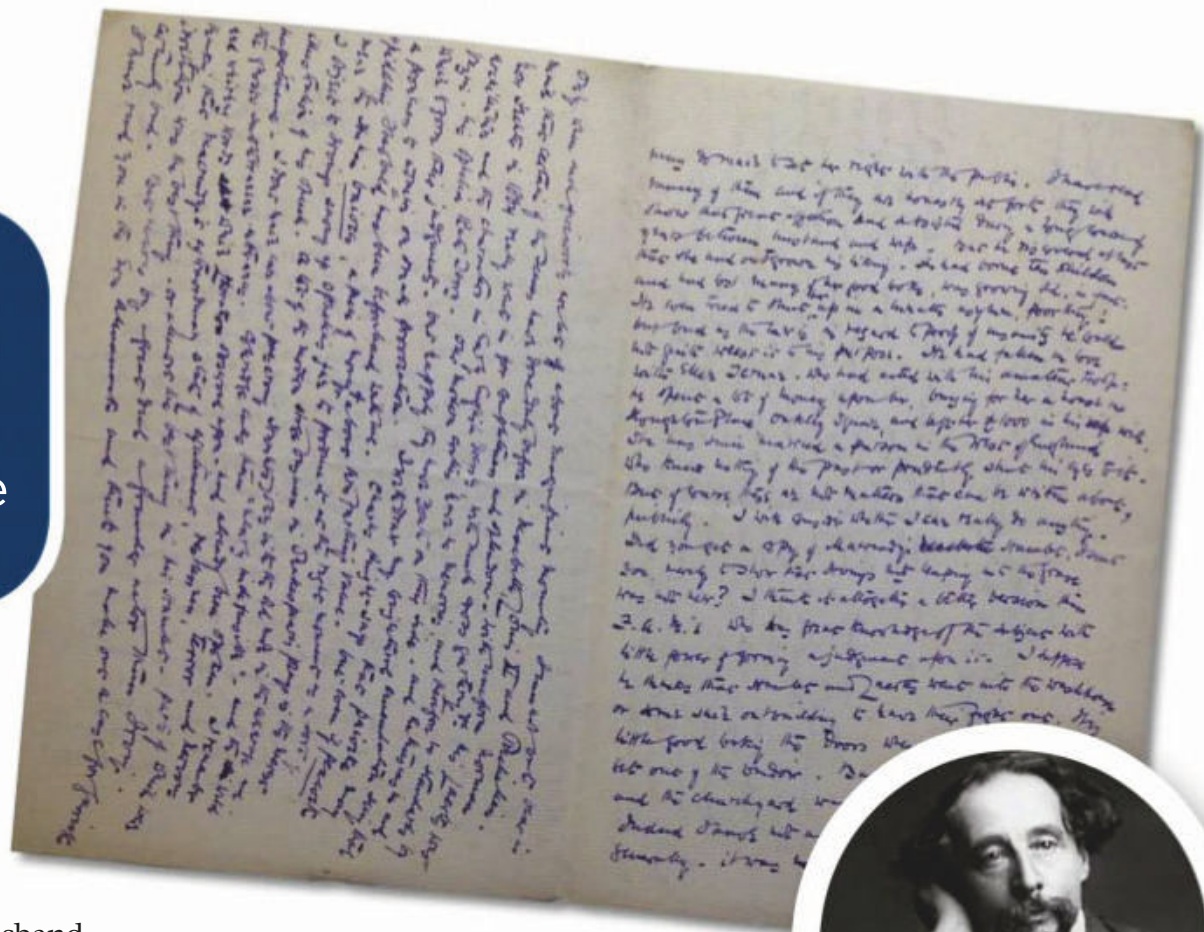
Catherine left the family home, Gad's Hill Place in Kent, with their eldest child and would never see her husband again. The rest of their children were raised by their aunt, and Charles continued his relationship with Ellen until his death in 1870.

One of the letters, which are held by Harvard University, was written by a neighbour of Catherine's after her separation from Charles. In it, he detailed the stories Catherine revealed about her marriage as she got older. One of these revelations was that Charles tried to prove that his wife was mentally unstable so she would be sent to an asylum. This attempt failed, however, as a doctor confirmed that no proof

Letters reveal Charles attempted to have his wife institutionalised

could be found that Catherine was suffering from a mental disorder.

"Reading the material was quite difficult, to be honest," says Professor John Bowen from the University of York. "Dickens is a literary great who I have studied and admired for many years, but some of the letters made very uncomfortable reading."



SIX OF THE BEST... LITERARY LOVE LIVES

Our pick of the writers who didn't pen themselves a fairytale love life



1 LORD BYRON
Among his many scandals, the most shocking of the poet's liaisons was that rumoured to be with his half-sister, Augusta Leigh. Her third child was believed to be Byron's daughter.



2 H.G. WELLS
The father of sci-fi's first marriage fell apart when he ran off with one of his students, who then became his second wife. Wells continued having affairs, some of which she gave her reluctant approval.



3 MARY SHELLEY
The creator of *Frankenstein* shocked everyone when, at 16, she eloped with the married poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. They were able to marry in 1816 after Percy's first wife, Harriet, committed suicide.



4 DYLAN THOMAS
Welsh poet Thomas was known to have a stormy relationship with his wife Caitlin. They stayed together through a marriage fuelled by alcohol and punctuated by Dylan's numerous affairs.



5 JANE AUSTEN
It may come as a surprise to learn that the novelist didn't meet her own Mr Darcy. Austen was proposed to by a family friend at 26, but turned him down the next day and never married.



5 T.S. ELIOT
The poet spent 18 years with Vivienne before calling time on their marriage via letter. His heartbroken wife tried to win him around, even placing an ad in *The Times*, but was eventually sent to an asylum.

TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

IN THE HOT SEAT

This invention made chilly open-air car journeys rather more bearable

The turn of the 20th century brought with it the extraordinary invention of the automobile, making getting from A to B much quicker. Travelling in one could get a bit nippy, though, as many cars weren't fully enclosed. Innovative ways of keeping warm were thus created, including this brass car seat warmer from the 1920s, an imaginative invention into which boiling water would be poured. In-car heating didn't become effective and commonplace for another decade. In 1938, Nash

Motors developed their Weather System, which remains the basis for the heating systems used in the majority of modern vehicles today.



IN THE NEWS

NARCISSUS FRESCO DISCOVERED IN POMPEII

Immaculate painting still visible in the ruined Italian city

The ancient city of Pompeii continues to reveal treasures from beneath the ash, such as this perfectly preserved fresco of the mythical Narcissus.

Found in the atrium of a richly decorated house, which had already yielded some finds earlier in the year, the fresco shows Narcissus captivated by his own reflection in a pool. The house also shows traces of stairs, which would have led to a second storey.

In Greek mythology, the hunter Narcissus was renowned for his beauty. In Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Narcissus is cursed by

the gods due to his callous rejections of those who loved him. He falls in love with his own reflection and pines away. His name has led to the term narcissism – meaning excessive interest or admiration in one's self.

The city of Pompeii and most of its inhabitants were destroyed in 79 AD when the nearby Mount Vesuvius erupted. The ash has ensured that much of the Roman city has been preserved underneath, making it one of the most popular archaeological sites in the world.



The recently discovered fresco is remarkably preserved and shows Narcissus admiring his reflection

HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life

See more colourised pictures by
Marina Amaral [@marinamaral2](#)



ROBERT PEARY, 1909

The US explorer is pictured, with his faithful dogs, having arrived home after his final polar expedition. It was arguably his most successful mission, one he believed made him the first man to reach the North Pole. However, scepticism over his navigational methods in the expedition's final stages has put the veracity of his achievement in doubt. His claim remains mired in controversy today.

YOUR HISTORY

Hallie Rubenhold

As a social historian, the broadcaster and author urges us to look beyond the familiar stories of monarchs and statesmen to the everyday heroes and heroines



Hallie Rubenhold's new book *The Five* challenges the accepted view of the five canonical victims of Jack the Ripper, and tells the untold stories of their lives.

Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?

This is difficult to answer as most events in history aren't triggered by one incident, but by a set of factors. It would be easy to say that I'd stop the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914, which would have prevented World War I and, subsequently, World War II, but that over-simplifies why these wars came about. Tensions had been building for so long between the European nations that if this assassination had been prevented, another event would have plunged the world into war.

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

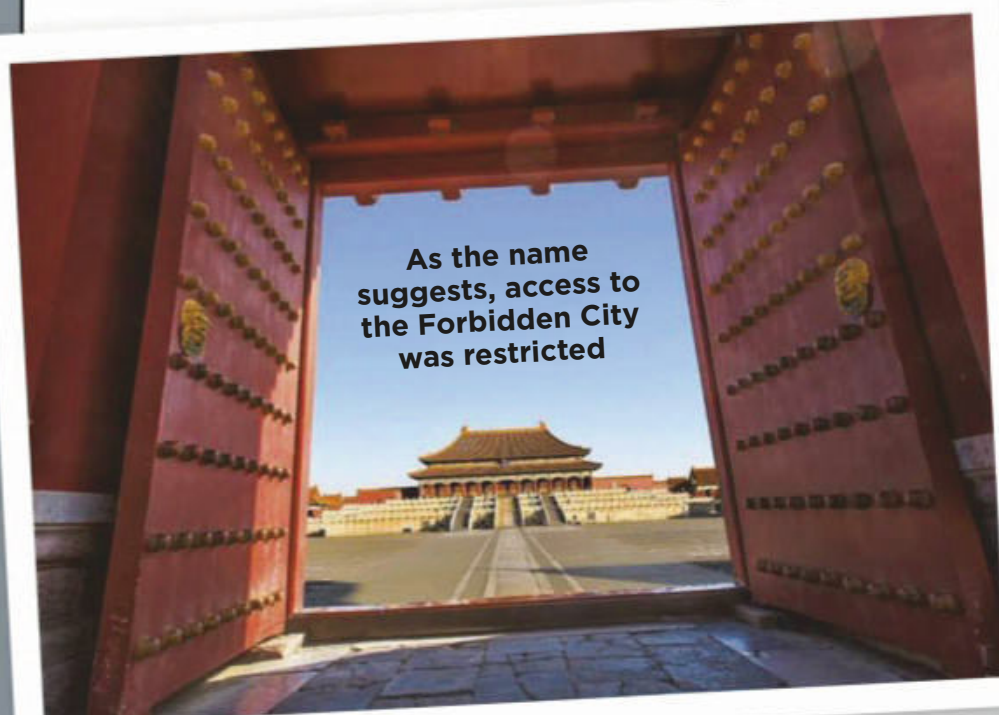
As my interests lie in the history of everyday life, I'd be more intrigued to meet a group of people, to observe how they live and listen to their thoughts on a variety of subjects. I'd love to sit at a dinner table with a group of 18th-century Londoners and participate in their conversation. I'd enjoy taking in the smells, sounds and physical sensations of their world and comparing them to what we, as historians, think we know about their era.

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

I'd love to visit the Forbidden City in Beijing. In fact, I would love to see more of China – Xi'an, the Great Wall and the cities along the Silk Road. I was in Shanghai recently and was completely seduced by its magic, history and culture. As an undergraduate, those of us who had chosen to focus on western history were asked to take classes in the history of a non-western country. I chose to do a year-long course in the history and culture of China. I often laugh at how backward Europe was in the Early Middle Ages by comparison.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

I'm endlessly amazed by the stories of individuals who are unknown to us. There are so many unsung heroes and heroines from the past, people who may not have done anything extraordinary, but who overcame adversity in their own lives. There are people who had to make difficult moral choices in eras when they would be condemned for taking certain actions. I think it's important that we resist the urge to revisit the familiar stories of monarchs and statesmen, and cast our sights a bit wider.



As the name suggests, access to the Forbidden City was restricted

“I often laugh at how backward Europe was in the Early Middle Ages”

Daily Mail COMMENT

‘For ten years the Mail has campaigned for this day. We have not wavered in our conviction that Britain’s best and brightest future is with Europe.’

EUROPE. HERE WE COME!

WE welcome this day.

All bygone adventures to unite the peoples of our Continent have been empires of the sword that have been sundered by the sword.

This European Community of which we are now a part is different.

It is a free association of nations drawn together by a common will to bury the sword.

To transform the cockpit of Europe into a power for peace—that was the ideal that took seed amid the rubble more than a quarter of a century ago.

Unlike almost all other grandiose visions sown in the aftermath of war, this one was not allowed to wither.

Men as epic in their statesmanship as the American founding fathers—men like Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman and Paul-Henri Spaak—worked through coal and steel and tariffs to give the European idea substance.

Britain flirted with the idea. But at that time, back in the ‘fifties, our feeling for the Commonwealth and our traditional distrust of Continental entanglement exercised too strong a counter-pull.

To our great cost, we missed our chance to join in laying the first foundations of the Common Market.

Had we had a hand in it then, the Europe we now belong to would be more to our democratic taste and we would not have to suffer the full economic absurdities of the Common Agricultural Policy.

But these are still early days, pioneering days. The shape of European unity that will eventually rise on these foundations has not been determined.

Today our destiny as a nation has committed us to mix the mortar and help build this new Europe; to ensure that the poorer regions in Britain and the other countries share in the prosperity to come.

For ten years the Daily Mail has campaigned for this commitment. We have not wavered in our conviction that Britain’s best and brightest future is with Europe.

We know that many of you still do not agree.

We think we understand your feelings at this time.

There is bound to be some sadness and regret. No groom marries without a wistful glance back to his bachelor freedom. No fanfare for Europe, however cheery, can quite be made to harmonise with Rule Britannia.

But ask yourselves how much hope and glory this land of ours would really enjoy if left on its own. Suez showed just how far we could push an independent foreign policy. And we’ve slipped a bit in the leagues of power and affluence since then.

Continued in Page Six



• Today we sound our own fanfare for Europe by announcing the £1,000 Daily Mail Europrize.

It’s an exciting award for a unique person—the man or woman who makes the best individual contribution towards Britain’s success in the Common Market.

We are looking for the super salesman who will best seize the opportunities offered by the momentous step into Europe.

It will be a unique contest. And it will give an equal opportunity to every entrant, no matter what the size of his company.

For the winner there is a special trophy. And a cash award of £1,000. There will also be a bonus prize of a week’s holiday in the Common Market capital of their choice to the winner’s wife—or husband.

Don’t miss the Mail for more details of this great contest.

**TOMORROW—A SPECIAL 16-PAGE
PULL-OUT ON EUROPE AND YOU**

Man in post row knighted

POST OFFICE chief Bill Ryland, whose dismissal has been demanded because of the Christmas mail delays, is knighted in the New Year Honours List.

Posts and Communications Minister Sir John Eden has been asked by Mr John Hunt, Tory MP for Bromley, to sack Sir William in the light of unprecedented delays in Christmas mail.

But Sir William, now 59, will probably stay in his £20,000-a-year job for a further six years.

Yard Chief Knighted: Page 9
Sport honours: Page 25



MARTIN MCGUINNESS

Top IRA men ambushed

And gang open fire on bus

Daily Mail Reporter

TWO more top IRA Provisionals were in police cells last night after an ambush on the Republic side of the border.

And in Ulster four passengers were wounded when terrorists opened fire on a crowded bus in Belfast.

The border ambush practically wipes out the Londonderry Provisionals’ High Command.

For it netted Martin McGuinness, 22, commander of Derry’s IRA forces, and his deputy, Joseph McCallion, 26.

They were ambushed during an arms smuggling mission on Saturday night, say the Eire police.

The trap was sprung by eight police officers in Co.

Donegal after they found a red Cortina parked 130 yards from a routine road block near the Ulster border.

As the police approached two men ran out of the car.

The officers recognised the car as belonging to an IRA man. In the boot, said the police, were 250lb. of gelignite and more than 5,000 rounds of ammunition.

One of the two police cars drove off, its headlights blazing, to give the impression

that the checkpoint had been abandoned.

But the only officer in the drive-away car was the driver. The seven other policemen waited for the IRA suspects to return to their Cortina.

After about an hour two figures crept towards the Cortina. The police leaped out from ditches and behind bushes.

There was virtually no struggle, said one officer. ‘We weren’t armed and neither were they.’

Both captives were taken to Letterkenny police station and locked up for the night.

Yesterday they were taken in a convoy of police, army vehicles and armed outriders to Mountjoy Prison, Dublin.

A policeman stationed at Liscarroll, Co. Cork, is to be charged under the Official Secrets Act. He was arrested during investigations into the disappearance from a police station of papers on IRA men.

The Belfast bus shooting began after the vehicle was hailed by a man standing at a request stop on the Protestant Highfield Estate.

As the bus pulled in three armed men—one with a sub-machine-gun—stepped out and sprayed the vehicle with gunfire.

Passengers screamed and dived to the floor as the windows were shattered. Two of the four wounded were kept in hospital.

All four terrorists got away in a waiting car.

INSIDE—Colin Reid 7, Femail International 8, Emmwood 13, Peter Black & TV Guide 16, Amusement Guide 18, Classified Adverts 20, 22, 23, Prize Crossword 25

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Edward Heath at a glitzy gala to celebrate the UK's entry to the EEC in 1973

THE UK JOINS THE EEC

After two false starts, the UK finally joins the European Economic Community, the first step towards closer links with European countries

After more than ten years of negotiating, in 1973 the UK joined the European Economic Community (EEC) – also known as the Common Market. The *Daily Mail* described the EEC as “a free association of nations drawn together by a common will to bury the sword”. Joining the founder members Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany, the UK became a member on 1 January 1973 alongside Denmark and Ireland.

The EEC had been created in 1957 to eliminate trade barriers and allow a common trade policy across its member states. It was also intended to reduce tensions that had arisen up to and during World War II. It was hoped that by countries collaborating with each other, further war in Europe would be avoided. The UK initially declined to join but, when it became apparent that members of the EEC were enjoying greater prosperity in the post-war years, the UK backtracked.

Before it finally became a member in 1973 under Prime Minister Edward Heath, the UK had applied to join twice before – both in the 1960s, and both attempts were vetoed by French President Charles De Gaulle. He believed the UK relied too heavily on the US, to the detriment of mainland Europe.

One year after the UK joined, Heath's Conservative government was replaced by a Labour one under Harold Wilson. The Labour party

was divided over Europe and wanted the terms of membership renegotiated, so on 5 June 1975, the UK held a referendum. A landslide victory saw the campaign to remain win with more than two-thirds of the vote.

The Maastricht Treaty, signed in 1992, renamed the EEC (by then 12 member states – Greece, Spain and Portugal joined in the 1980s) as the European Community (EC) to reflect that it covered a wider range than economic policy. This treaty also founded the European Union (EU) into which the EC countries were incorporated. The EU grew to 28 states with a single currency, the euro, adopted by 19 of them.

In March 2017, the UK became the first member state to trigger its exit from the EU. 🇬🇧

ABOVE RIGHT:
**Inaugural meeting
of the enlarged EEC
in Brussels in 1973**
RIGHT: ‘Keep Britain in
Europe’ campaigners
in 1975, joined by
Conservative leader of
the opposition,
Margaret Thatcher



THIS MONTH IN... 1199

Anniversaries that have made history

RICHARD THE LIONHEART DIES

The beloved – but never at home – king of Robin Hood fame meets a painful end at the age of 41

After years of fighting in the Holy Land, the warrior king Richard I would lose his life closer to home. Commonly called ‘the Lionheart’, Richard has been an enduring figure in both fact and fiction.


Son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard was born in England but spent the majority of his life either fighting abroad or living in the duchy of Aquitaine. In 1173, he joined his brothers and mother in a rebellion against his father, and in 1189 they defeated a fatally ill Henry just days before his death. Barely able to stay on his horse, Henry reluctantly named Richard as his heir.

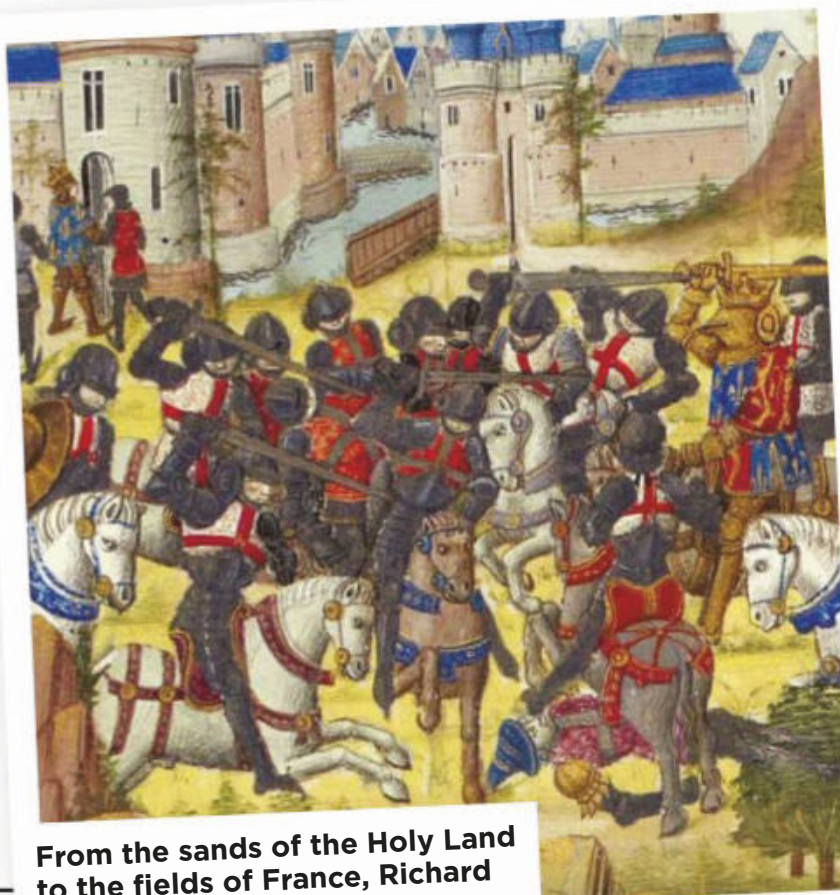
Within a year of his coronation, Richard had left for the Third Crusade – intended to recapture Jerusalem and the rest of the Holy Land from the Muslim sultan Saladin. Taxes were raised across England to fund Richard’s escapades. While some now view this as Richard’s disregard for being an active ruler, at the time his people saw him as a chivalrous emblem of Christianity.

Although Jerusalem wasn’t regained, Richard achieved safe passage for Christian pilgrims who visited the city. He had to return to England as his brother, John, was plotting against him by stirring up rebellion and forming an alliance with Philip II of France.


On his journey home, Richard was imprisoned by the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI. Remarkably, the enormous ransom of 150,000 marks – roughly three times the income the English Crown – was raised, and Richard was released in 1194. He returned to England, but the visit was short-lived, and within months he was fighting to protect his lands in Normandy against Philip. He would never return to England, and continued fighting on and off in France for five years.

In late March 1199, he laid siege to the castle at Châlus-Chabrol and was shot in the shoulder with an crossbow bolt. The wound turned gangrenous, and he died on 6 April. Legend has it that the bolt was fired by a young boy who sought revenge for his father and brothers, and who was subsequently pardoned by Richard.

The king was buried at Fontevraud Abbey in Anjou, where his father – and later his mother – were buried, while his heart was kept at Rouen Cathedral to commemorate his love of Normandy. During his ten-year reign, he is believed to have spent no longer than six months in England, and probably couldn’t speak English. The triumphant appearance he makes in many Robin Hood films is unlikely to have occurred in reality – if indeed the hooded hero existed. 



From the sands of the Holy Land to the fields of France, Richard spent much of his life at war



Richard's reputation
as a good king began
when his mother
was trying to raise
funds for his ransom

**“Truly his wrath battles
against me: my sons fight
amongst themselves”**

Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard's mother

TIME CAPSULE 1907

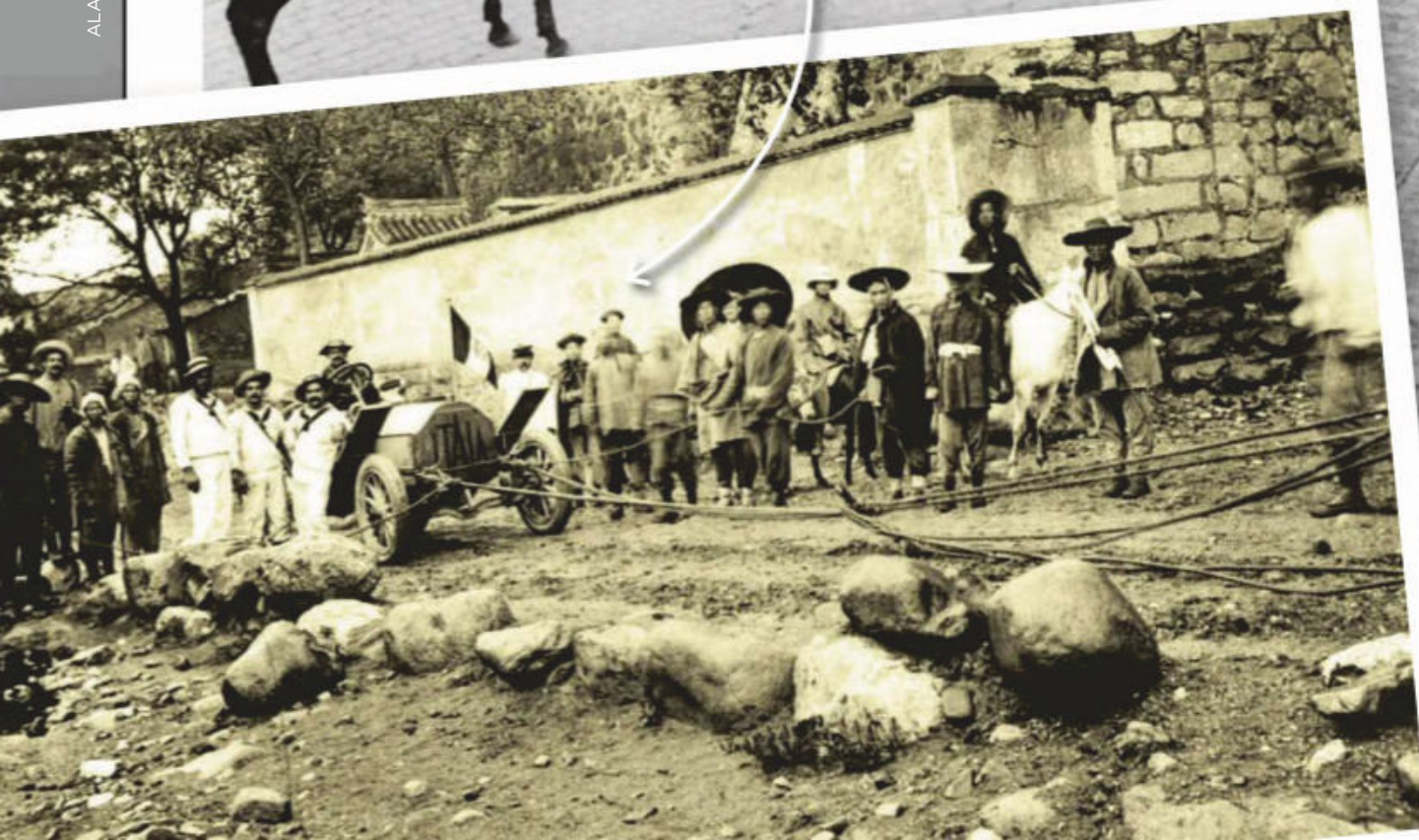
Snapshots of the world from one year in the past



The winning car in the Peking-Paris rally gets a tow on a rough road in China during its incredible 9,000-mile journey

CARS RACE FROM PEKING TO PARIS

The French newspaper *Le Matin* proposed an ambitious (make that foolhardy) race in January 1907. "Now that man has a car, he can do anything and go anywhere. Does anybody accept the challenge of going from Peking to Paris by car?" That was enough for five crews to head to Peking (Beijing) and brave the journey of more than 9,000 miles. Drivers went through deserts, mountain passes and woodland, while dealing with no roads, maps or petrol stations. Yet somehow, the Italian Prince Scipione Borghese made it to the French capital on 10 August, the arrival shown here, 61 days after setting off, in his 40hp Itala – although by the end, it was sporting a replacement wheel of wood.



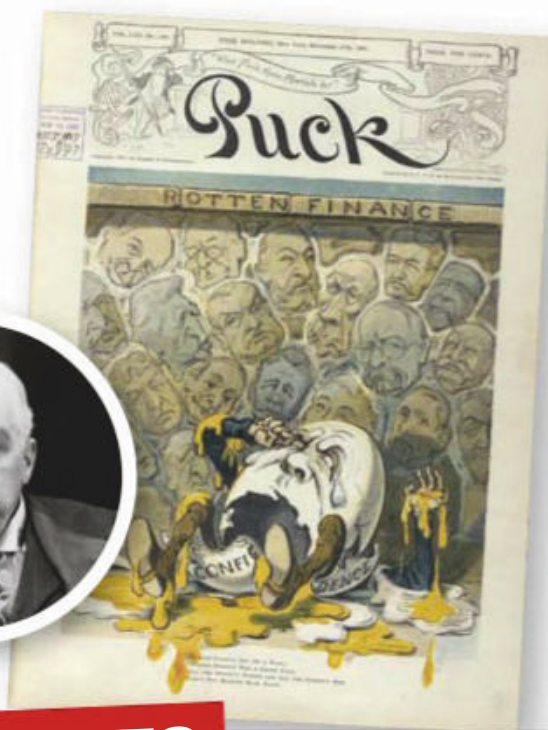
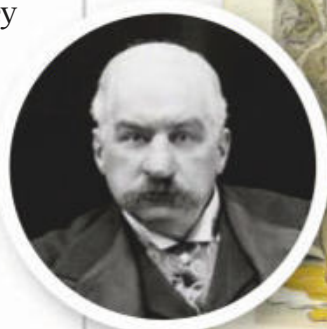


SUFFRAGISTS MAKE THE 'MUD MARCH'

Conditions on 9 February 1907 were far from ideal for a demonstration. "Mud, mud, mud, was its prominent feature," concluded Millicent Fawcett, president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Some 3,000 suffragists (not Emmeline Pankhurst's militant suffragettes) planned a march through London for votes for women, but did not expect torrential rain. Still, they went undeterred from Hyde Park to the Strand and heralded the so-called Mud March a success. There was a long way to go before UK women got the vote, but next month Finland had the first elections in Europe with universal suffrage and the first women in the world took their place in parliament.

BANKS IN AMERICA GET IN A PANIC

Before the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and a century before the 2008 banking collapse, the US was rocked by a financial crisis that threatened the whole economy. The Panic of 1907, also known as the Knickerbocker Crisis, began in October with the stock exchange dropping by 50 per cent and led to numerous runs on banks over several weeks. It was only resolved when the uber-wealthy financier JP Morgan, shown below, took charge and pledged huge sums of his own money. He even locked a group of bankers in the library of his mansion until they had worked out a solution.



ALSO IN 1907...

6 JANUARY

Italian physician Maria Montessori opens her first Casa dei Bambini (Children's House), in Rome, a school promoting a new form of education. Montessori schools are now all over the world.

26 JANUARY

The opening performance of *The Playboy of the Western World* by the Irish playwright JM Synge ends in riots by nationalists who consider it an insult to Ireland.

22 MARCH

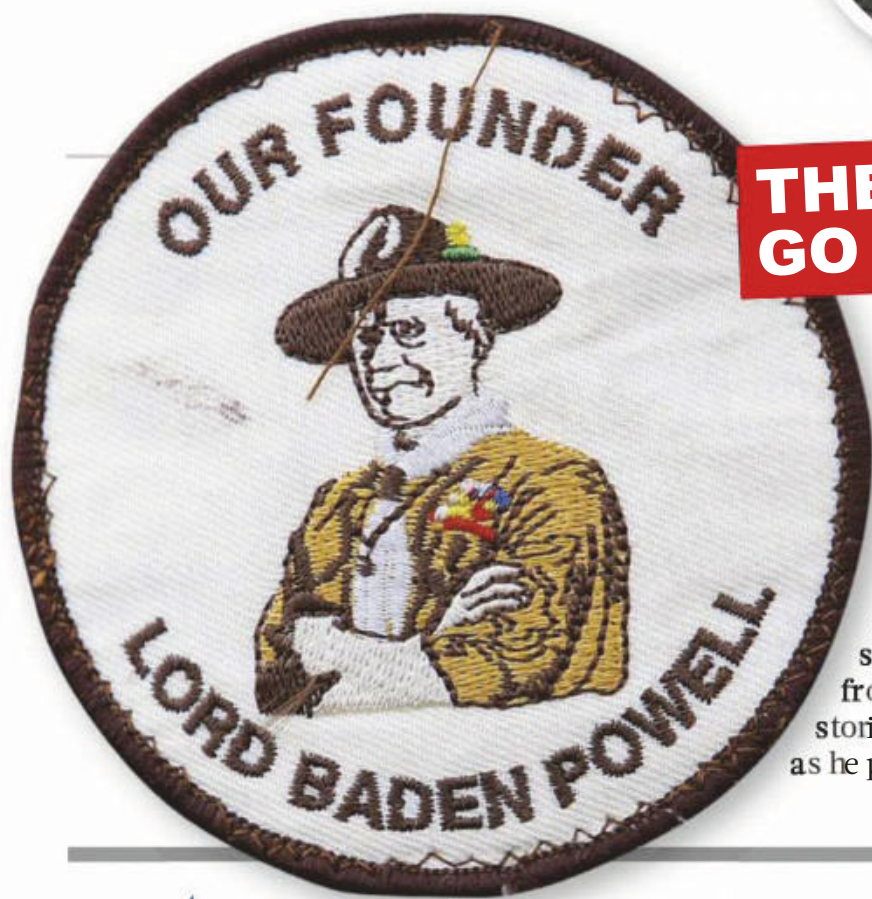
Cabs in London begin operating with a taximeter to calculate the fare for each journey, beginning at eight pence for the first mile.

17 APRIL

Ellis Island, the major immigration centre off New York, has its busiest day during its six-decade operation, recording 11,747 people. The average was 5,000 a day. No papers were required.

26 SEPTEMBER

New Zealand (then a colony) becomes a dominion of the British Empire. Newfoundland becomes a semi-independent British dominion (in 1949 it would vote to join Canada).



THE SCOUTS GO CAMPING

Since holding out against a 217-day siege during the Boer Wars, Robert Baden-Powell had become a national hero, and his books on military scout training were being read by boys in Britain. Hoping to instil these young men with skills, chivalry, patriotism and adventure, he held his first camp on 1 August 1907 on Brownsea Island, Poole Harbour, Dorset. Each day of outdoor activities began at 6am with him sounding the kudu horn he had brought back from Africa and ended with games and campfire stories. The next year, he published *Scouting for Boys* as he prepared to make it a hugely popular movement.

DIED: 21 DECEMBER KLARA HITLER

Klara Hitler lived an unremarkable life, but her surname is instantly familiar. Her son Adolf was so distraught when she died of breast cancer that her doctor said he "had never seen anyone so prostrate with grief". He remained grateful, however, for the care given by Dr Bloch, a Jew, allowing him to emigrate in 1940.



BORN: 6 JULY FRIDA KAHLO

Magdalena Carmen Frieda Kahlo y Calderón almost never became a world-famous artist. She suffered from polio as a child, which left her with a slight limp, and as a teenager nearly died in a horrific road accident. While recovering from broken bones and being impaled through the hip, Kahlo taught herself to paint.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

THE LONDON UNDERGROUND

The London Underground is one of the most vital components of the UK's capital, connecting all areas of the vast metropolis, as well as having the distinction of being the oldest metro system in the world. Its first vehicles were steam locomotives, but now electric trains run along the 11 lines, transporting 1.35 billion passengers a year. Its introduction in 1863 revolutionised the way that Londoners moved around the city, condensing journeys that once would

have taken more than an hour down to mere minutes. It would be a while before it became a smooth and streamlined journey, however. On the completion of the Circle line in 1884, the journey was described by *The Times* as "a form of mild torture which no person would undergo if he could conveniently help it". What was once a group of separate railways became a giant rail network across the city and it wasn't long before underground railways began to be constructed across the world.

More than 60% of the 'underground' network is actually above ground

During World War II, many stations were used as air-raid shelters.

402
The length of the network in km



1843

The Thames tunnel opens. Built by Marc and Isambard Brunel, it was the first under-river tunnel. Originally intended for cargo, it opened as an attraction to make money

1869

East London Railways start running trains through the Thames Tunnel

1884

The Circle line is completed, connecting the Metropolitan and East London Railways

1902

US financier Charles Yerkes forms the Underground Electric Railways Company of London and unifies the majority of the existing lines

1863

The Metropolitan Railway opens as the world's first underground railway between Paddington (then called Bishop's Road) and Farringdon

1880

The first tube tunnel opens between the Tower of London and Bermondsey

1890

Running between King William Street and Stockwell, the City and South London Railways open the world's first deep-level electric railway

The recognisable sans-serif font, created by Edward Johnston in 1916, is still used in an updated form across the network.

Bakerloo line

Disused tunnels at Aldwych station were used by the British Museum to store the Elgin Marbles and protect them from bombing raids.

A smoking ban was enforced in all station areas after a fire broke out under the wooden escalators at King's Cross underground station in 1987. The fire claimed the lives of 31 people and injured many more. The network's wooden escalators were swiftly replaced with metal ones.

The Bakerloo line was reportedly built after businessmen complained about how long it took to get to Lord's Cricket Ground.

270
The number of stations on the network

Bakerloo line

Way out →

1908

The first electric ticket machines are installed and the term 'underground' and the roundel symbol are first used

1933

The London Passenger Transport Board encompasses the Underground Group and Metropolitan Railway, and Harry Beck unveils his Underground map

1906

The Baker Street and Waterloo Railway and Great Northern, Piccadilly & Brompton Railways both open

1911

The first escalators are installed at Earl's Court

1969

The Queen opens the Victoria line - the first new line in 50 years

1977

The Piccadilly line extends to Heathrow airport

2016

Five lines begin operating a 24-hour service

HISTORY

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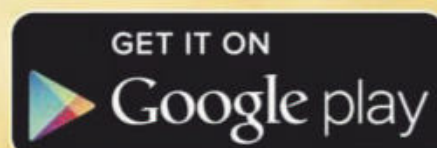
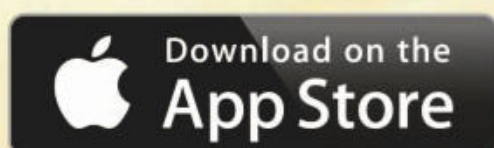
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HISTORY
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Æthelflæd led the
Kingdom of Mercia
and had several
victories over
the Vikings



THE LADY OF THE MERCIANS

She was a queen in all but name, but Æthelflæd, the daughter of Alfred the Great, is barely mentioned in contemporary chronicles of the Anglo-Saxon era. **Jonny Wilkes** wonders whether England owes more to her than to her famous father

When Æthelflæd was a baby her father Alfred, destined for greatness, became King of Wessex. At around 16 years old, she was married to the Lord of the Mercians and so placed next to the seat of power of a neighbouring Anglo-Saxon kingdom. In her 20s, she helped to build a string of fortifications and patronise churches; in her 30s, she took up the mantle of ruling in place of her indisposed husband and defeated the Vikings in battle; and in her 40s, on her

husband's death, Æthelflæd was chosen to lead above all male contenders.

She became known as the Lady of the Mercians. She strengthened the economy, improved education and intensified her campaign to build towns and defences across her kingdom. She restored Mercian lands by force or negotiation and plunged into enemy territory to throw out the invaders once and for all. She was to die at the height of her power before she reached 50. As a wife, patron and warlord, Æthelflæd helped establish a united England, but as a

woman, her place in the histories was reduced, undermined, almost forgotten.

Much better known are her father Alfred the Great, and the man to whom she had been an adoptive mother, Athelstan, first King of all England. They ruled at a time dominated by conflict with Danish and Norse Vikings, when England was made up of individual kingdoms. Northumbria and East Anglia had fallen to the Great Heathen Army – a coalition of Norse warriors – while the central region of Mercia had seen its power wane as it was split by conquests. Wessex, to the south, was the last kingdom standing.

FORCED TO FLEE

Æthelflæd was born into this world of war and looming invasion probably a year before Alfred came to the throne of Wessex in AD 871. Her childhood has been lost as it was omitted from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicles* (a collection of documents in Old English telling the history of the Anglo-Saxons), so much has to be guessed. Although the eldest of five children, she would not have been brought up to rule, but did receive the same education as her brothers. Æthelflæd would have seen little of her father as he was often on campaign. Yet she may still have picked up details about his ability to lead, his pious style of administration and what life at court was like.

In January AD 878, Alfred was briefly overthrown. A band of Danes launched a surprise attack on Chippenham, where he had celebrated Christmas. He was forced to flee, taking his wife and children with him, and the next three months were spent in the Somerset marshes rallying followers and preparing a retaliatory strike. At the Battle of Edington in



Vikings were the biggest threat to the Anglo-Saxons in Æthelflæd's lifetime

ENGLAND'S GREATEST ROYAL DYNASTY?

How Æthelflæd and her family shaped England

ALFRED THE GREAT



On becoming King of Wessex in AD 871, Alfred spent years fighting the Danes that had invaded the other Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. After a decisive victory at the Battle of Edington in AD 878, he had his defeated foe Guthrum baptised. He went on to be accepted as king by all those not under Viking rule. He improved defences, made reforms and promoted education, and is the only English monarch honoured with the epithet 'the Great'.

EDWARD THE ELDER



Alfred's son has been described as a king neglected in the histories. With his sister Æthelflæd, he made significant territorial gains against the Vikings, and this would intensify after her death. He took control of Mercia by deposing his niece, Ælfwynn, and laid foundations for a united English kingdom.

ÆTHELSTAN



King of Wessex and Mercia after his father Edward the Elder's death in AD 924, he faced resistance, yet conquered the Viking stronghold York to be first ruler of all of England. Centralising government and imposing legal reform, he led with unshakeable piety. He made England a player in European politics by arranging key marriages.

May, Alfred reclaimed the throne and his family were able to return from their exile.

After several more unrecorded years, Æthelflæd eventually entered the *Chronicles* when she was married to Æthelred, ruler of Mercia. Thought to be no older than 16, she was used to seal an alliance between Alfred and the Lord of the Mercians, so called as Æthelred did not hold the title of king. Alfred and his allies were still fighting the Vikings, but when he seized London in AD 886 he became the dominant ruler in England and all those not under Danish rule accepted him as their overlord. Chief among them Æthelred, who was given control of London as a gesture of renewed unity between Wessex and Mercia.

Æthelred and his young wife established themselves at Gloucester, and had a daughter named Ælfwynn. While her year of birth is unknown, it was probably soon after they got married. The 12th-century chronicler William of Malmesbury claimed the birth was so difficult that it almost killed Æthelflæd and she vowed to abstain from further sexual relations. Whether this is true or not, Ælfwynn would be their only child.

Typically, Æthelred is depicted as an unpleasant and unloving older husband, married for convenience to the naïve Æthelflæd. Such an image has been perpetuated by modern retellings, including in Bernard Cornwell's acclaimed novel series *The Saxon Stories*, but even if true, it only tells part of the

“Æthelflæd was involved at court and in political matters. Her name appeared on charters”



Æthelflæd may have led her own men in battle, though the evidence is scant

tale. The pair were married for 25 years and there is evidence to suggest there was trust between them and that Æthelflæd was involved at court and in political matters. Her name appeared on charters alongside her husband's.

At the time, Alfred was reforming defences in Wessex by building a network of burhs, or fortified settlements. These could either be repaired existing fortifications, including Roman towns or Iron Age hillforts, or new communities. Æthelred and Æthelflæd followed his example, beginning with Worcester in AD 890. They were dedicated patrons of the church too, endowing monasteries and abbeys with large sums

of money. Worcester's bishop, Wærferth, was referred to as a 'friend' of the rulers of Mercia and a charter asked the monks there to sing psalms and say masses to their health.



Lindisfarne was founded by St Oswald in AD 635; retrieving his bones from Viking territory was a major coup for Æthelflæd



Mercians and West Saxons joined forces to crush the Danes in AD 910 at Tettenhall

Æthelred was called upon again as a capable military leader when the Danes returned and renewed their attacks. Æthelflæd, in her 20s, remained behind. If this kept her on the wings, however, events at the end of the ninth century pushed Æthelflæd to centre stage. Alfred died in AD 899, putting her brother Edward on the throne of Wessex, who sent his seven-year-old son Athelstan to Mercia to be educated. It fell to Æthelflæd to raise the boy destined to unite the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and it seems that she instilled in him her deep piety.

Within a few years, Æthelred was stricken by an illness that often left him incapacitated, meaning Æthelflæd ruled on her own. She showed herself to be a strong, assertive figurehead, and, perhaps more surprisingly, in possession of a ruthless military mind.

When a group of Norwegians asked for permission to settle around Chester, she agreed. Maybe she was naïve, or maybe she hoped to use negotiation rather than war and fulfil the name sometimes given to Anglo-Saxon women – ‘peace weavers’. But when she

heard that the Vikings, led by Ingimund, planned to capture the town in AD 906, she did not shy away from bloodshed. She persuaded Ingimund’s allies to swap sides and masterminded a battle strategy. Chester was filled with troops, waiting for a small force outside the open gates to draw the Vikings in and trap them. Amid the fighting that ensued, the people of Chester dropped hot beer and even threw down beehives on their foes. It was a decisive victory for Æthelflæd.

More victories were to come. In AD 909, she was involved in planning a daring raid of Mercian and West Saxon forces into the Danelaw (areas held by the Vikings), succeeding in retrieving the bones of St Oswald from Lincolnshire. The seventh-century king of Northumbria had given the land for Lindisfarne Priory – site of the first Viking attack in AD 793 – so this raid was heralded as a great religious crusade.

The bones were brought to Gloucester and interred at the priory, renamed St Oswald’s, built by Æthelflæd early in her marriage.

Æthelflæd and Athelstan: she paved the way for him to become first ruler of all England

When the Danes retaliated with their own raids the following year, the Mercians and West Saxons crushed them at the Battle of Tettenhall (near Wolverhampton), killing thousands, according to the *Chronicles*.

CHOSEN ABOVE ALL MEN

Such was the respect for Æthelflæd that, when Æthelred died around AD 911, she was chosen by the nobles of Mercia to rule in her own right. It was common for women in her position to retreat from public life, but Æthelflæd had stepped out of her husband’s shadow long ago. She offered Mercia continuity, stability and strength – rather than submission to Wessex – and that she never married again suggests she was unwilling to be subservient to another man again. Æthelflæd was therefore named ‘Myrcna hlædige’, or Lady of the Mercians.

One of her first acts was to hand over control of London and Oxford to her brother Edward the Elder, possibly to ensure his recognition of her authority. Anyone who saw that as a weakness when it came to her territory would have been mistaken. Æthelflæd ramped up the building or restoring of burhs near the Danelaw, including at Stafford, Warwick, Runcorn and Mercia’s former capital of Tamworth. She established nine fortresses in five years. As Edward was similarly enhancing defences in Wessex, sister and brother were able to work together to go on the offensive.



THE LADY OF THE MERCIANS THROUGH THE AGES

Our main contemporary source of information about Æthelflæd is the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, which did not consider her birth and childhood worthy of inclusion. As it was created in Wessex (in the time of Alfred), the writers may have intended to undermine her role in Mercia while exaggerating the achievements of her brother, Edward the Elder. A different version with a fuller, if hardly complete, account of Æthelflæd's reign exists, called the *Mercian Register*.

Despite what one historian has called this “conspiracy of silence”, Æthelflæd came to be highly regarded by later chroniclers, sometimes more than her father Alfred the Great. Henry of Huntingdon, a 12th-century English historian, compared her to a man saying, “A queen by title, but in deeds a king,” adding “Heroes before the Mercian heroine quail’d, Caesar himself to win such glory fail’d.”

Some historical eras have sought to popularise female rulers of England's past, leading to a revival in interest for Æthelflæd. This included the Elizabethan period (although they preferred Boudicca for having red hair like Elizabeth I) and the Victorian era, when she emerged under the name Elthelfleda. Recently she appeared in Bernard Cornwell's series of novels *The Saxon Stories*, adapted into the television series *The Last Kingdom*. It is a fictionalised version, however, with her story filled with kidnapping, and falling in love with another man. With so much of the real Æthelflæd lost to history, such embellishment can hardly be surprising.

RIGHT: It fell to Æthelflæd's adoptive son, Aethelstan, to reclaim York from the Vikings

While Æthelflæd would not have led men into battle, it does appear that she marched with the Mercian armies and she seemed to have been an active force in strategy. When an abbot in her household, Ecgberht, was killed in Wales in AD 916, she raised an army within three days and marched into Wales in retaliation. Her men burned the crannog of a local king and took his wife hostage.

But her sights were chiefly set on ridding the land of the Vikings to the east. In AD 917, with Edward's support, Æthelflæd launched her most aggressive campaign yet, to recapture the Five Boroughs, the major cities of the Danelaw. Derby fell first, but only after especially fierce fighting, and then Leicester surrendered without a fight – a sign of how Æthelflæd was regarded by her enemies and how she was happy to pursue diplomatic solutions. (When Edward took Nottingham and Stamford the following year, four of the boroughs were again under Anglo-Saxon control.)

Unbeaten and brimming with confidence, Æthelflæd looked far beyond her borders to one last great stronghold. York, under the name of Jorvik, had been the heart of Viking Northumbria since being invaded by the Great Heathen Army more than 50 years before, yet, like Leicester, the town was prepared to submit peacefully to Æthelflæd. It should have been her most remarkable triumph but, on 12 June AD 918, as she made her way there, Æthelflæd died. Her body was taken back to Gloucester so she could be buried next to her husband at the priory they had built.

Æthelflæd was a pious Christian, whose patronage included a new priory in Gloucester dedicated to St Oswald



“Jorvik had been the heart of Viking Northumbria ... yet was prepared to submit to Æthelflæd”

Despite a woman never ruling an Anglo-Saxon kingdom before her, Æthelflæd had been offered the throne, secured her position, expanded her reach, and came close to crushing her enemies. And then she was succeeded without opposition by another woman, her daughter Ælfwynn. But York's offer of submission was not repeated. Ælfwynn ruled for just a few months before being deposed by her uncle, Edward. Æthelflæd's achievements could not be undone, though. Later chroniclers would praise her reign even more than her father's,

and when Athelstan, whom she had raised, captured York in AD 927, her campaign against the Vikings was completed. Alfred the Great and Athelstan have rightly been described as the founding fathers of England – but Æthelflæd is certainly its founding mother. 📍



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which other female leaders or warriors do you think have been overlooked in historical accounts?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

Æthelflæd and Aethelred do not enjoy marital bliss in *The Last Kingdom*

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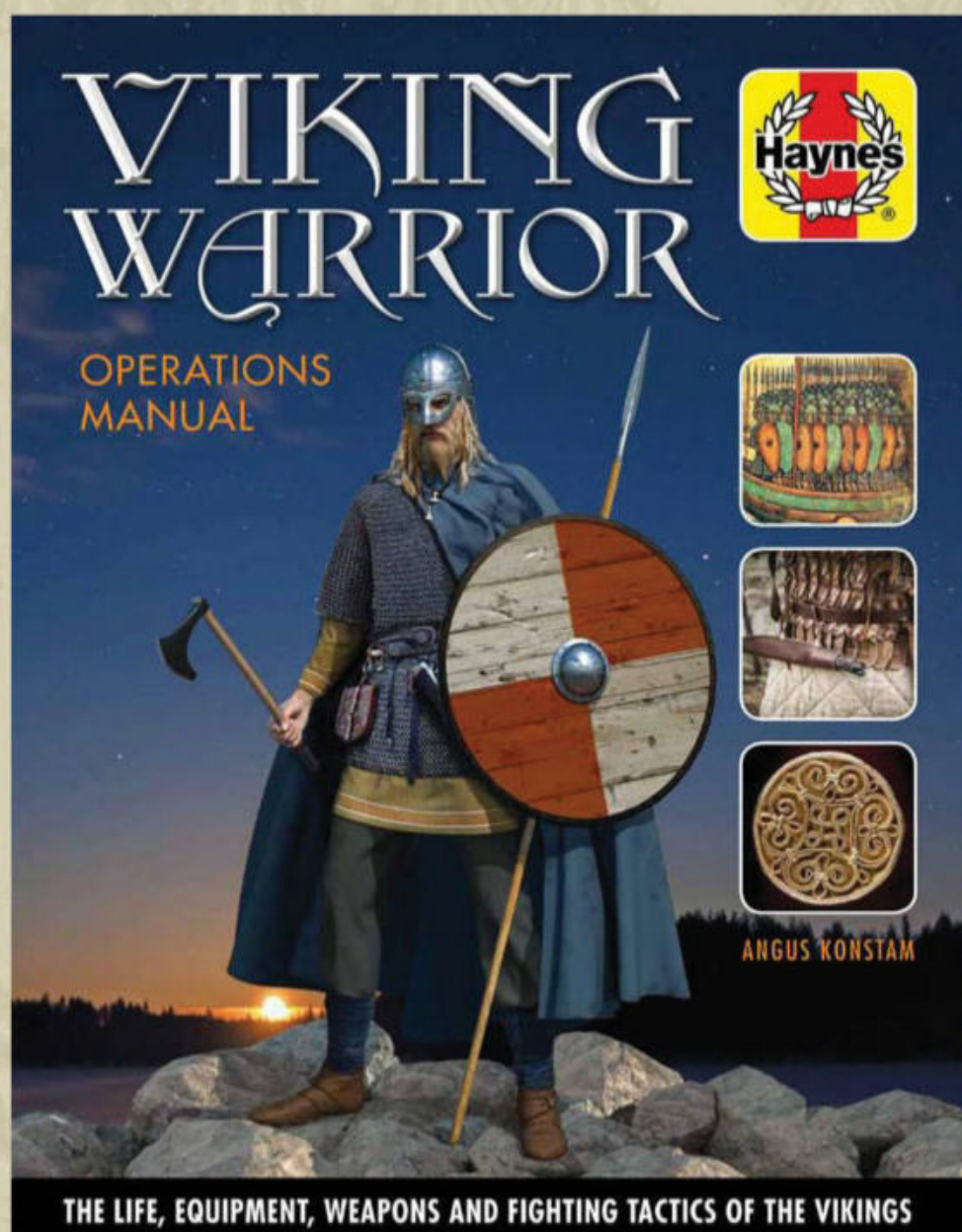
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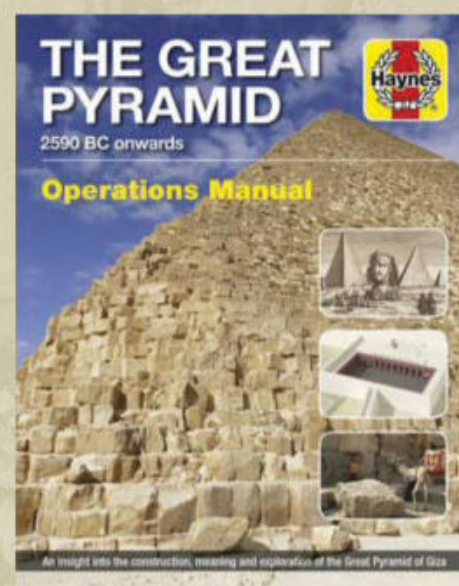
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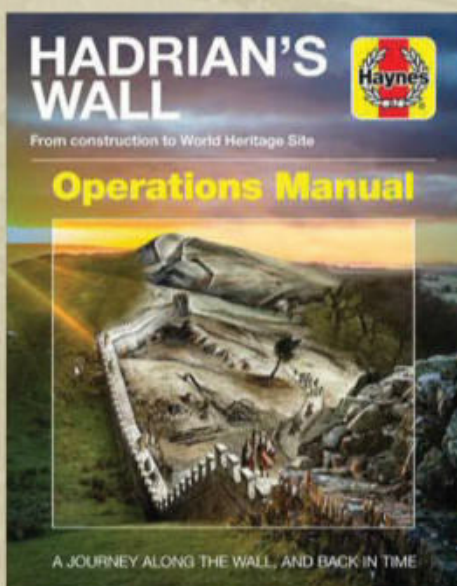
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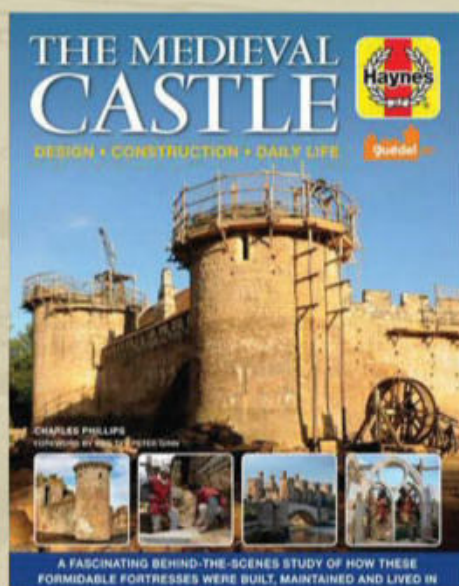
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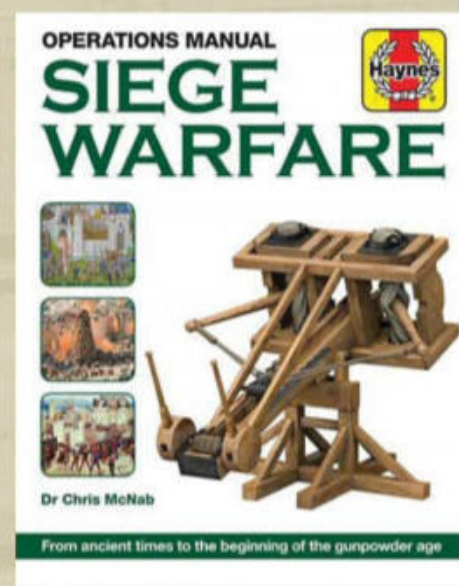
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Able to disguise themselves and strike at any time, these killers were the inspiration for *Assassin's Creed*



TERROR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The mere mention of the Hashashin struck fear in the hearts of sultans and crusaders alike. Hareth Al Bustani brings these enigmatic assassins out of the shadows, who spread a cloud of terror across the Muslim world

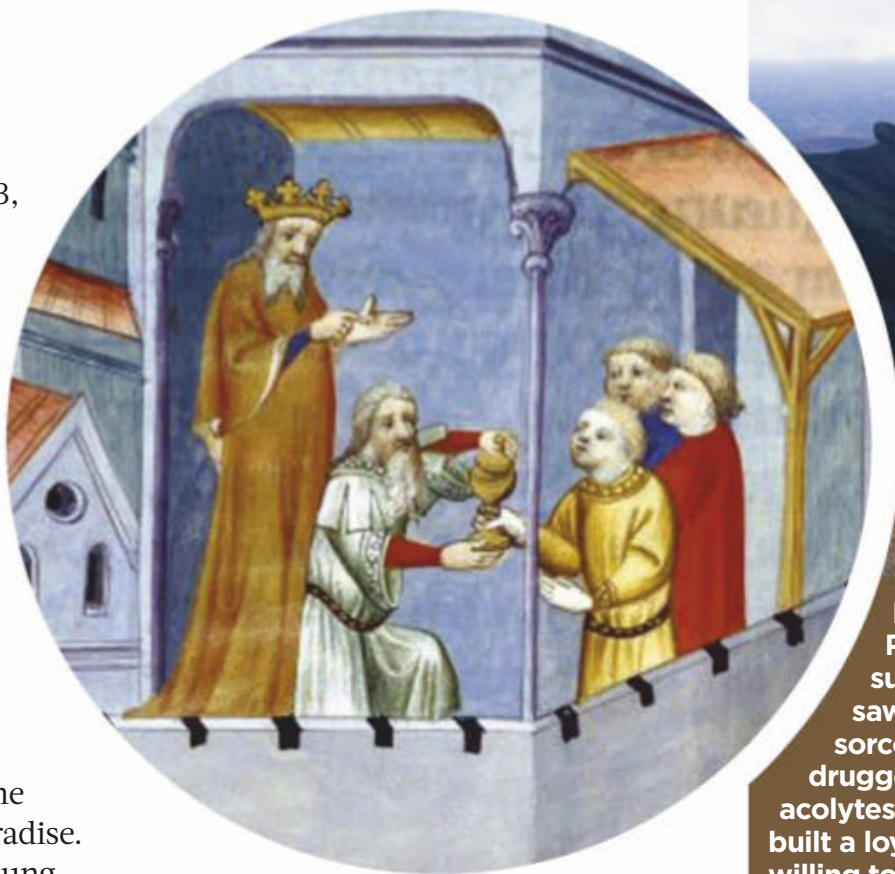


During his travels through Persia in 1273, Marco Polo came to hear of a self-styled prophet, who had ruled nearly two centuries ago from an indomitable fortress at the mouth of an enclosed valley. The Old Man of the Mountain had crafted an artificial paradise, filled with stunning pavilions, free-flowing wine and “beautiful damsels”. Young men would be drugged unconscious and brought into the beautiful garden, where, having indulged to their hearts’ content, the prophet told them they were in paradise. After sedating and removing his young recruits again, the Old Man handed them a dagger and claimed the only way for them to return to paradise was to kill and die for him.

Other writers and travellers said that the Old Man treated guests to bold displays of his followers’ devotion, instructing them to smoke copious amounts of hashish before leaping from towers to their deaths. Such was the nature of the so-called Hashashin, a group so secretive and so unusual that nothing seemed impossible. For the better part of two centuries, hidden in the mountains at the heart of the Muslim world, the evasive group waged warfare like none had ever done before, and carved out a kingdom through

propaganda, trickery and assassination. Yet, it all began with one man.

Hassan Al-Sabbah was born near the centre of the Seljuq Empire in Persia, a major power in the 11th-century Muslim world. Raised under the mainstream Twelver branch of Shia Islam – which believed that there were 12 divinely appointed successors to Muhammad – he later studied under a missionary of the growing Ismaili sect. Hassan initially considered it a heresy, but, at around the age of 17, he embraced the Ismaili doctrine and wholeheartedly pledged himself to the Ismaili imam (Muslim leader). While many Ismailis hid their faith in the Seljuq Empire, as



LEFT: Marco Polo made sure Europeans saw Hassan as a sorcerer who drugged his acolytes; the real man built a loyal following willing to kill for him
RIGHT: The ruins of the mountain-top castle of Alamut, from where Hassan sent out his assassins, known as fida'i or Hashashin

“THE OLD MAN CLAIMED THE WAY TO RETURN TO PARADISE WAS TO KILL AND DIE FOR HIM”

THE MUSLIM WORLD OF THE 12TH CENTURY

Around the time that Hassan was establishing his powerbase at Alamut, the third Islamic caliphate to come after the death of the prophet Muhammad, called the Abbasids, had been in power for over 300 years. At its peak, their reach encompassed lands from Persia to North Africa, but during the 12th century, the Abbasids were fragmenting, province by province.

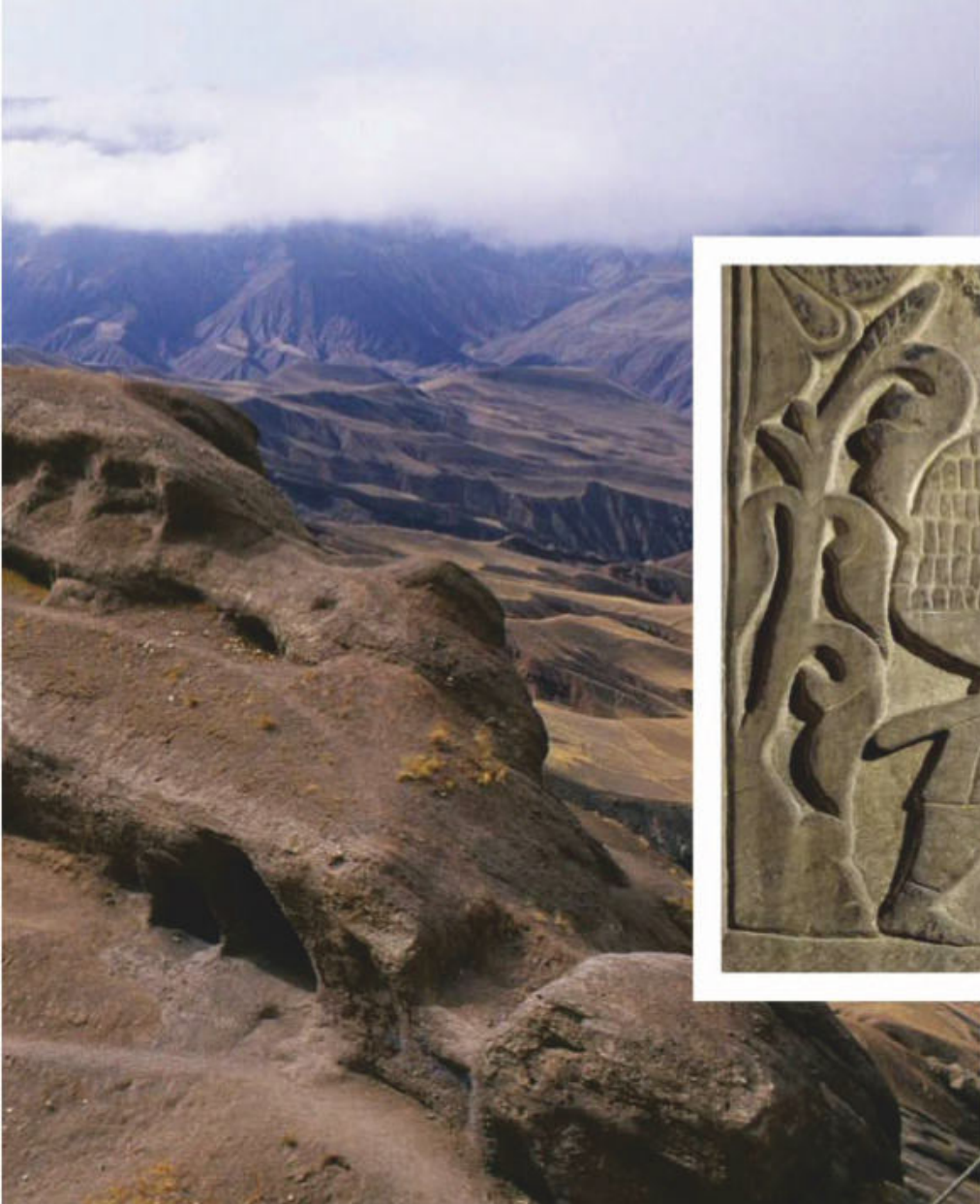
Swathes of North Africa came under the control of the Fatimids. Named after Muhammad’s daughter Fatima, they were Ismaili Shiites and the metropolis of Cairo was home to their imam. This presented a political and religious counterpoint to the Sunni Abbasids, ruling from Baghdad. However, the Fatimids were also losing control of their domain.

To the east, the Seljuq Turks had emerged from Persia. They conquered lands that had seceded from the Abbasid caliphate and amassed the largest concentration of power in the Muslim world. Their empire centred around the capital of Isfahan, in modern-day Iran. Soon, the Seljuqs were exercising control over the Abbasids, where the caliph was now little more than a figurehead. But even the Seljuqs struggled to secure authority. When, in 1192, the sultan



Malik-Shāh died, the empire was split between his brother and sons – with both the Christian crusaders and Hassan’s Hashashin ready to swoop in on the chaos.

SELJUQ EMPIRE



The Seljuqs had carved out a Muslim empire, but they made many enemies, including the revolutionary Hassan

it had a dynasty based in Sunni Islam, Hassan openly refuted Sunni scholars, espousing the authority of the Ismaili imam with such zeal that he was accused of sedition and chased out of Turkey to Egypt in 1076.

Even during his estimated three years there, the revolutionary fell out of favour with the military establishment, who had him deported. When his ship sunk, however, he had to be rescued and taken to Syria, from where he travelled back to Persia. Now committed to his new beliefs, Hassan remained there for nine years spreading, in his own words, “propaganda” across the country. He tapped into anti-Seljuq sentiment and sowed the seeds of rebellion, using the Ismaili faith as his platform.

MOUNTAIN FORTRESS

Hassan was eager to find a base from which he could gather converts and spread the mission. With a warrant out for his arrest, he avoided urban centres, instead traversing the desert and preaching to mountain-dwellers. Hassan converted the hardy warriors of the mountains of Daylam in Persia’s north, home to a dynasty of Alids – descendants of Ali, son-in-law of Muhammad – and a dynamic Shi’ite

community. It was while on his travels that Hassan found, deep in the Elburz mountain range, his fortress.

Perched on a precariously narrow ridge more than 2,000 metres above sea level was Alamut. The castle, the name of which means ‘eagle’s nest’, overlooked an isolated, cultivated valley some 30 miles long and three miles wide. The only problem was that it was ruled by the

DID YOU KNOW?

Hassan lived at the castle of Alamut for 34 years, during which he only ever left his home twice. And both of those times were only to go onto the roof.

Vizier Nizām Al-Mulk, with his face scratched out, died on the road at the hands of a disguised assassin



Alids on behalf of the Seljuq sultan. Few would dare attempt to capture such a stronghold, but it was not conquest that Hassan had in mind.

Setting himself up in the nearby city of Qazvin, he sent his best missionaries into Alamut’s surrounding villages, and then up the snaking path into the castle itself. Soon enough, his rousing propaganda – replete with ancient esotericism, masterful theological constructions and rich philosophical tapestries – galvanised the passions of the guards, who implored their leader to convert. After this proved unsuccessful, Hassan smuggled himself into Alamut and continued to pull strings in hiding until he had grown popular enough to declare his intent. He ejected the Alid leader, with a payment of 3,000 gold dinars for his trouble, and made Alamut his own by 1090.

Hassan, from his newly reinforced headquarters of Alamut, was not one to rest on his laurels. He sent missionaries out with the same game plan that had won him Alamut. One by one, they amassed converts and castles across broad swathes of northern Persia and the region of Khurasan. Hassan even sent agents into the heartlands of the Seljuq power and Sunni orthodoxy. By mimicking his methods, his missionaries in Syria carved out nascent communes.

As the outside world grew increasingly wary of this emergent Ismaili realm, Hassan’s work became increasingly dangerous. When 18 Ismailis failed to convert a muezzin – the official who calls Muslims to prayer – they murdered him for fear of being exposed. Still, on

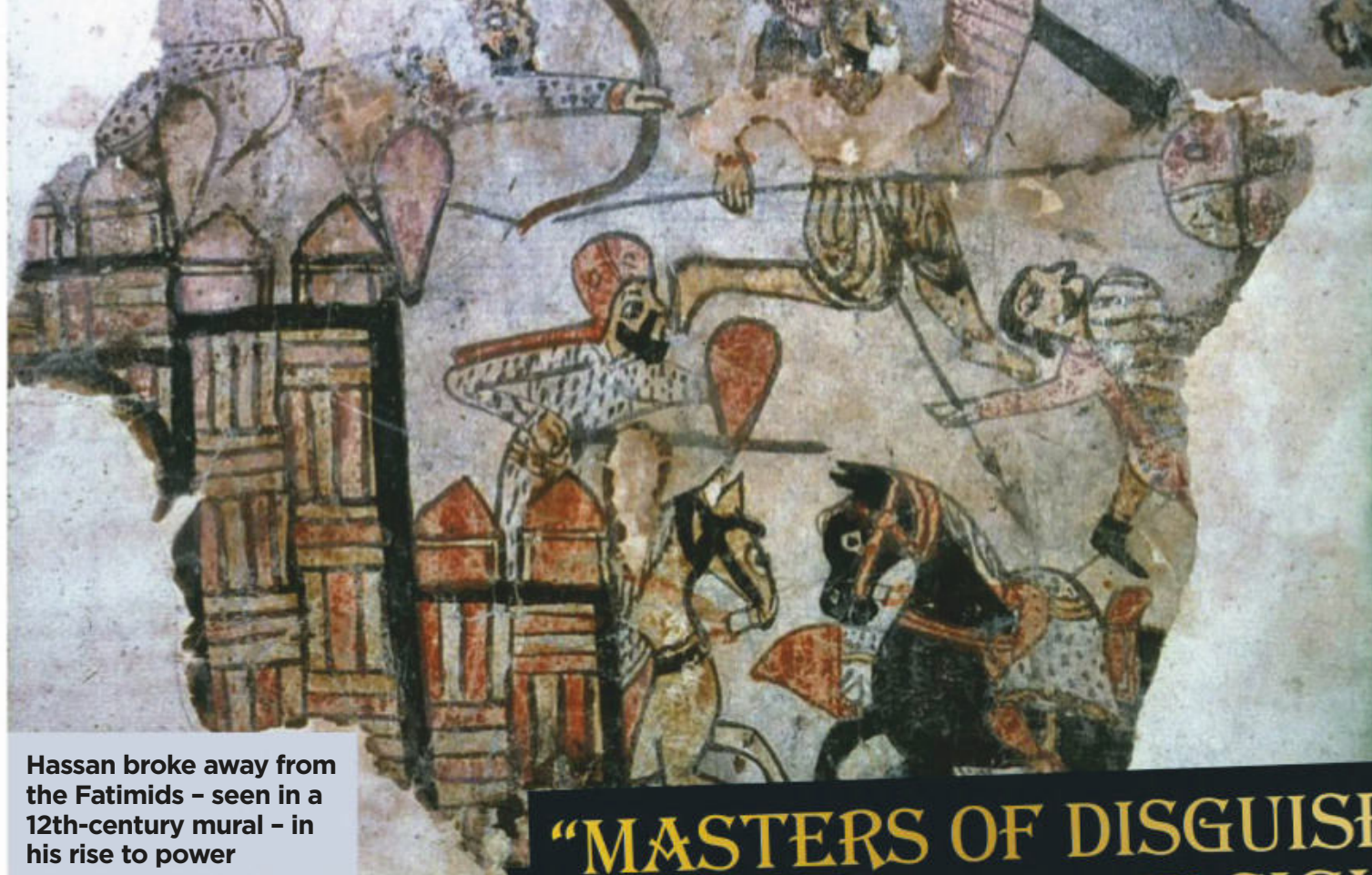
< the orders of the vizier Nizām Al-Mulk, the head of the civilian government, the accused Ismaili ringleader was lynched and paraded through the market of the Seljuq capital of Isfahan.

Within two years, the Ismailis had stolen so much territory that the vizier declared them enemies of Islam. He encouraged the sultan to “stem the pus of sedition and excise the virus of inaction”, and attack. Hassan may have only had around 65 men at Alamut, but one of his missionaries was able to muster an army of 300 soldiers. In a pre-emptive strike, they launched a surprise night attack, which sent the Seljuq army fleeing with its tail between its legs.

Soon afterwards, the vizier was stabbed to death by one of Hassan’s followers disguised as a Sufi dervish, a type of religious mystic. Upon hearing the news of his enemy’s demise, Hassan reportedly proclaimed: “The killing of this devil is the beginning of bliss”.

MURDER MACHINE

The landscape changed again in 1094 when Hassan got involved with a power struggle. Before Al-Mustansir, the Ismaili ruler of the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt, died, he named his elder son Nizār as his successor. But the Fatimid military intervened and instead appointed his younger son, Al-Musta’li. Although Nizār fled to Alexandria and rose up in rebellion, he was eventually captured and murdered in prison, alongside his sons. Disgusted, Hassan severed



Hassan broke away from the Fatimids – seen in a 12th-century mural – in his rise to power

“MASTERS OF DISGUISE, THEY HID IN PLAIN SIGHT AND WAITED FOR THE TIME TO STRIKE”

ties from the Fatimids and refused to recognise Al-Musta’li, instead declaring for the dead Nizār and his descendents. This meant he had no imam to answer to, so Hassan became a power unto himself. His followers grew into a sect known as the Nizārī Ismailis.

Truly isolated and unchecked – and having shocked the Sunni and Shia establishments alike – Hassan and his followers intensified their campaigns of seizing power and destroying enemies. To do so, they embraced the dark arts with hitherto unknown zeal. They were never going to have superiority of numbers, but they used propaganda and terror to devastating effect, and became supreme experts of assassination.

With machine-like precision, the Nizārī began to murder officers, princes, generals, governors, caliphs and anyone else who dared to oppose their growth. Hassan began recruiting hitmen en masse, training and dispatching them across the Muslim world. Named fida’i, or ‘one who sacrifices himself’, they were masters of disguise, able to hide in plain sight or among the target’s kin, earn their confidence and wait for the perfect time to strike. Their



One of Iran’s oldest mosques still standing is in Isfahan, capital of the Seljuq Empire



ABOVE: The Seljuq sultan Barkiyaruq couldn't stop Hassan, so he made use of his killers instead

RIGHT: The once-mighty castle at Lammasar was captured by the man who would succeed Hassan



assassinations were graphic, public spectacles, with victims cut down in squares and mosques while surrounded by trained guards. Though their own deaths were likely, failure was not an option. At Alamut, the killers were enshrined by poetry as courageous, loyal and selfless – to be immortalised in the roll of honour of assassinations. Soon, their name struck fear in the hearts of the most powerful in the Muslim world.

The iron was hot. The new Seljuq sultan, Barkiyaruq, was embroiled in a bitter war of succession over a crumbling empire, so there was little he could do about Nizārīs' audacious expansion. They stole castles, such as Damghan and Girdukh, often with the help of local governors who had secretly defected to their cause. The sultan, with his back against the wall, decided it was better to work with the Nizārīs than against them and actually enlisted their support. Many of the assassinations carried out under Hassan's rule were enemies of the sultan, or supporters of his brother.

SPREADING PARANOIA

While assassination was far from a new phenomenon, the fida'i took it to frenzied heights. They murdered so frequently, so publicly and with such bravado that soon, all assassinations of religious, political or military figures were simply blamed on them. This gave others, unconnected to the fida'i, a convenient excuse to kill without fear of reprisal.

The suicidal nature of their missions only made them more terrifying. Hassan's murderous arm could reach anyone at any

time. It was not long before the Nizārīs had infiltrated Barkiyaruq's court and paranoia of this hidden threat had spread among the uppermost echelons of the Muslim world. Even the best-guarded Seljuq officers wore mail shirts under their clothes.

The sultan, terrified of the Nizārī, launched a combined attack on them with the ruler of Khurasan. They destroyed Nizārī holdings in the region of Quhistan and enslaved the inhabitants. Unable to conquer the mountain fortresses, he gave his men free rein in Isfahan and Iraq to round up suspected Nizārīs and massacre them in the town squares, accompanied by mass book burnings and property seizures. Then following the sultan's death, his brother, Muhammad I Tapar, made it a priority to contain Hassan.

Though the Seljuqs besieged Alamut for eight years, Hassan continued to murder his enemies – magistrates, scholars, jurists and emirs alike. The siege ended in 1118, with the Nizārīs on the brink of defeat, when the attackers learned their sultan had died and returned home. Hassan had endured.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, the Fatimid imam denounced the Nizārīs as

DID YOU KNOW?

Hassan imposed strict rules at Alamut, even executing one of his sons for drinking alcohol in public and another after he was accused of murder.

SUNNI AND SHIA: THE ISLAMIC SCHISM

Today, the vast majority of Muslims are Sunni, while the Shia account for around 10 per cent of the Islamic population. The divide goes back to the religion's founder. After the prophet Muhammad died in AD 632, his closest companion Abū Bakr was named

as successor, so becoming the first caliph. Some, however, opposed his appointment as they believed that Muhammed intended his cousin and son-in-law, Ali, to succeed. They formed a movement called 'Shiat Ali', the Party of Ali.

In the ensuing decade, as the Muslims conquered lands and created an empire, Ali eventually inherited the caliphate, but was later murdered by an extremist faction of his own supporters. His elder son Hasan would abdicate his claim as imam, but his younger, Husayn, did not. This put him in conflict with the Sunni successor Yazīd. On his orders, Husayn was

hunted down and butchered.

While Sunni Islam remained the established orthodoxy, Ali's supporters went on to form communities in his former base of Kufa, in southern Iraq, and the Arabian Gulf. They followed a lineage of imams based in Mecca and Medina.

When the sixth imam died in AD 765, his elder son Ismail was widely believed to have already died, leaving the title to his younger brother, Musa Al-Kazim. This line was the mainstream Twelvers branch. However, another more secretive, esoteric branch – the Ismailis – claimed that Ismail had not died at all, and would return.

Alamut had held out against other foes, but the Mongols got in



LEFT: The Hashashin tried twice to kill Saladin; a statue of the Muslim hero stands in Damascus, Syria

RIGHT: In Mongol Möngke Khan, the Hashashin finally met their match

‘hashishiyya’, or hashish smokers – a word that would later be used interchangeably with ‘assassins’ or Hashashin. Muslim writers equated smoking hashish with low moral and social class, and users to heretics, outcasts and criminals.

In the summer of 1124, Hassan was on his deathbed. He nominated the man who had successfully assaulted and captured Lammasar castle, Kiya Burzurgumid, as his successor. Within two decades, the Nizārīs, who never called themselves the Hashashin, would go on to murder the Abbasid caliph and even the Seljuq sultan. But the frequency of assassinations slowed after the loss of the Old Man of the Mountain.

IN THE SHADOWS

In 1164, the Nizārī world transformed when the leader of Alamut, Hassan II, proclaimed the qiyama, or resurrection, claiming to be the prophesied imam, while repealing Sharia law – although he was killed just a 18 months later by his brother-in-law, and his teenage son inherited his imamate. The responsibility for enforcing this change in Syria fell to Rashid al-Din Sinan, leader of the Syrian Nizārīs, but he declared independence from Alamut and killed the assassins

sent to curb his influence. Rashid now had a dilemma. Despite boasting in excess of 60,000 followers, his realm was between the Christian crusaders and Saladin, the Sunni hero who became the first sultan of Egypt and Syria. Surrounded, the Nizārīs switched allegiances frequently – masterfully blowing with the wind. Rashid attempted to murder Saladin twice, then allied with him. And while paying tribute to the Templars, he killed the King of Jerusalem in 1192.

When Rashid died shortly afterwards, the Syrian Nizārīs reunited with Alamut. Then in 1210, Jalal al-Din Hassan took over Alamut and converted it to Sunni Islam, restoring Sharia law. Hoping to secure legitimacy, he halted assassinations and invited his neighbours to remove offensive books from the library and burn them. He was

“SMOKING HASHISH
EQUATED WITH
LOW MORAL AND
SOCIAL CLASS”

THE NOTABLE HASHASHIN ASSASSINATIONS

Early murders by the followers of Hassan were very much a personal affair. They not only killed Hassan’s archrival, vizier Nizām Al-Mulk, but his brother and son. The killers – initially called fida’i, but who would become known as the Hashashin – learned how to make the most of regional chaos. When the caliph of the Abbasids, Al-Mustarshid, had been captured in 1135, a group snuck into the tent where he was held and killed him. A few years later, they murdered his deposed son Al-Rashid too. No one was safe from their deception, disguise and dispatching. Even a Seljuq sultan was stabbed to death by four Hashashin in northwest Persia in 1143.

In 1192, a group of Syrian Hashashin disguised themselves as Christian monks and earned the confidence of Conrad of Montferrat, King of Jerusalem. They waited a whole six months before killing him – the group’s most high-profile murder. When caught, the killers claimed that Richard I of England was responsible.

the first to submit to the Mongols as they descended from Turkmenistan.

In the 1250s, Möngke, grandson of Genghis Khan and leader of the Mongol Empire, launched a conquest of the west and the Nizārīs were in the way. Some accounts claim he had learned that the Hashashin had dispatched 40 assassins, in a variety of disguises, to kill him. Either way, he sent his brother Hulagu to wipe them off the face of the earth. Nizārī strongholds fell and Alamut surrendered in 1256. The Mongols committed mass genocide of the Nizārīs throughout Persia, sending them fleeing to Afghanistan, India and Central Asia. Some were allowed to live in Syria too.

The Hashashin would disappear. From a sinister power led by an Old Man, they faded into legend – forever lurking in the shadows of the art of assassination, named in their honour. 📍



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The Flower Portrait is one of the most famous paintings of Shakespeare, but it's now believed to be a 19th-century forgery

William Shakespeare

How did an ‘upstart crow’ become England’s greatest playwright? **Lottie Goldfinch** follows the Bard from humble start to theatrical stardom – and on into literary legend

For a man whose works have been translated into more than 80 languages, including Klingon and Esperanto, we know remarkably little about England's most famous playwright. Even his birth, on or around 23 April 1564, is unconfirmed – a proposed date based on an entry in a parish register, which lists the baptism of “Gulielmus filius Johannes Shakespeare” (William, son of John Shakespeare) on 26 April 1564.

Much of Shakespeare's early life, too, is shrouded in mystery. We know that he was born in a two-storey, half-timbered house on Henley Street in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon, and that he lived there until his mid-20s. The house, now open to the public, was purchased as a national monument in 1847 and is key to our understanding of Shakespeare as a boy. Millions of people continue to visit his birthplace in the hope it will reveal the innermost secrets of the great playwright – what he was like, how he wrote, what he thought and how he felt.

John Shakespeare lived in the house from the early 1550s onwards, joined there around 1557 by his new wife Mary. The first documentary evidence linking the family to the house is a fine issued to John Shakespeare in April 1552 for leaving a “sterquinius”, or muckheap, outside the Henley Street property. William was the couple's first surviving child. Two daughters, Joan and Margaret, had both died before their first birthdays. Five more children followed William's birth: Gilbert (1566), Joan (1569), Anne (1571), Richard (1574) and Edmund (1580).

WILL'S SCHOOLDAYS

As a child, Shakespeare would have heard the types of fables, stories and legends that appear in some of his later works, and it is fair to assume he attended the local boys' grammar school a short walk from the family home. Attendance for local boys was free, and it would have been here that the young Shakespeare learned Latin, Greek rhetoric and classical literature, and discovered how language could be used.

It's probable that William, as the eldest son, would have been earmarked to take on his father's glove-making business, learning the ropes as an apprentice. John Shakespeare ran his business from a workshop at the back of the house, selling his wares through a window onto the street. But in 1582, at the age of 18, Shakespeare's path took a very different turn when he married a young woman named Anne Hathaway.



1564	
April 3	Edmundus filius Thoma Shafes
5	Benedicta filia Thoma Flemming
22	Johannes filius William Brooks
26	Gulielmus filius Johannes Shakespeare



ABOVE RIGHT:
The controversial
‘Cobbe portrait’,
considered to
be a likeness
of Shakespeare
painted from life

ABOVE LEFT:
The parish
register recording
the baptism of
“Gulielmus”,
aka William

Eight years William's senior, Anne lived with her family on a 90-acre farm in the village of Shottery, less than a mile and a half from the Shakespeare family home. Frustratingly little is known about their relationship, but what we do know is that, on their wedding day in November 1582, Anne was about three months' pregnant. At 26, Anne was legally able to marry, but William was still classed as a minor. Nevertheless, parental permission was granted and a special licence to marry was granted by the Bishop's Court in Worcester, which allowed the wedding to take place as soon as possible. To avoid a scandal, the marriage needed to occur before the bride's condition became too apparent. The couple's first child, Susanna, was born the following May.

One of the most enduring questions relating to Shakespeare is whether he really loved his wife or if he was

simply obliged to marry her once she fell pregnant. Certainly, by marrying at such a young age, his fortunes would have changed dramatically. As a married man, he would no longer have been legally permitted to enter into an apprenticeship, so inheriting his father's glove-making business was now an unlikely career path. He and Anne would have lived at the Shakespeare

Shakespeare's birthplace
on Henley Street in
Stratford-upon-Avon



DID YOU KNOW?

In his will, Shakespeare left his second-best bed to his wife, Anne. It was probably not meant as a snub – this would have been their marital bed. The 'best' bed went to his daughter Susanna, along with the house.

Gloves of the sort Shakespeare's
father made and sold from his house



family home – possibly in a two-roomed cottage added to the western end. Surely, as a new father, Shakespeare must have felt considerable pressure to provide for his growing family – twins Judith and Hamnet were born in 1585.

POACHER OR PILGRIM?

A seven-year gap in Shakespeare's biography – between 1585 and 1592 – is another source of frustration to historians. At some point in this period, Shakespeare moved from Stratford-upon-Avon to London, where he emerges, in 1592, as a successful actor and playwright. These crucial seven

The schoolroom where
Shakespeare is thought
to have been educated



ABOVE: A 1708 drawing
purported to depict
Shakespeare's wife, Anne
LEFT: The Hathaway
family home in Shottery,
close to Stratford

“One theory about the ‘lost years’ states he was caught poaching and fled to London”

years saw the making of William Shakespeare as we know him today, yet little-to-no evidence remains about what actually took place in that time.

As with most historical mysteries, people have been keen to fill what are commonly known as the 'lost years' with several theories. In 1681, author John Aubrey, writing about the life of Shakespeare, stated that the Bard had “understood Latine pretty well: for he had been in his younger yeares a schoolmaster in the countrey”. Local historians of Titchfield near Southampton support this theory, maintaining that Shakespeare worked as a schoolmaster at a school there between 1589 and 1592.

Another account, this time from the 18th century, stated that Shakespeare had been caught poaching venison from the estate of Sir Thomas Lucy and was forced to flee Stratford for a new life in London.

Meanwhile, a more controversial theory has Shakespeare down as being a secret Catholic who left Stratford on a pilgrimage to Rome. Shakespeare's religious beliefs are unconfirmed, but some scholars have speculated that he and his family may well have been Catholics, worshipping in secret to avoid persecution in Protestant England. In 2000, an English professor and Shakespeare scholar at the University of Mainz in Germany claimed she had found three Shakespeare signatures in a 16th-century leather-bound guest book belonging to the Venerable English College in Rome – a school of theology for English Catholic priests.

The first entry, dated 1585, is signed by Arthurus Stratfordus Wigomniensis – deciphered as “[King] Arthur's [compatriot] from Stratford [in the diocese] of Worcester”. A second, in

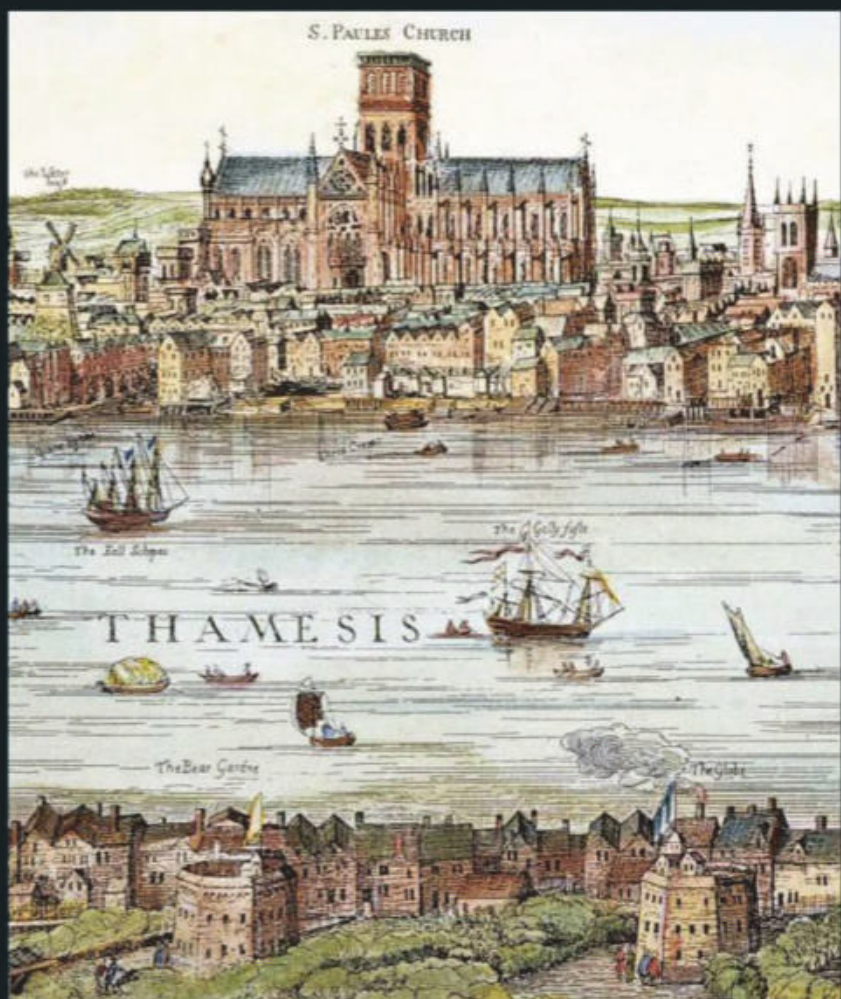
All the world's a stage...

Prior to 1559, when the acting profession became regulated, troupes of actors were free to travel the country, performing in towns and cities and putting on productions in private homes. New plays were greeted enthusiastically by local audiences, but the arrival of the actors themselves was viewed with suspicion and fear by Elizabethan authorities, who feared they would spread civic unrest and disease.

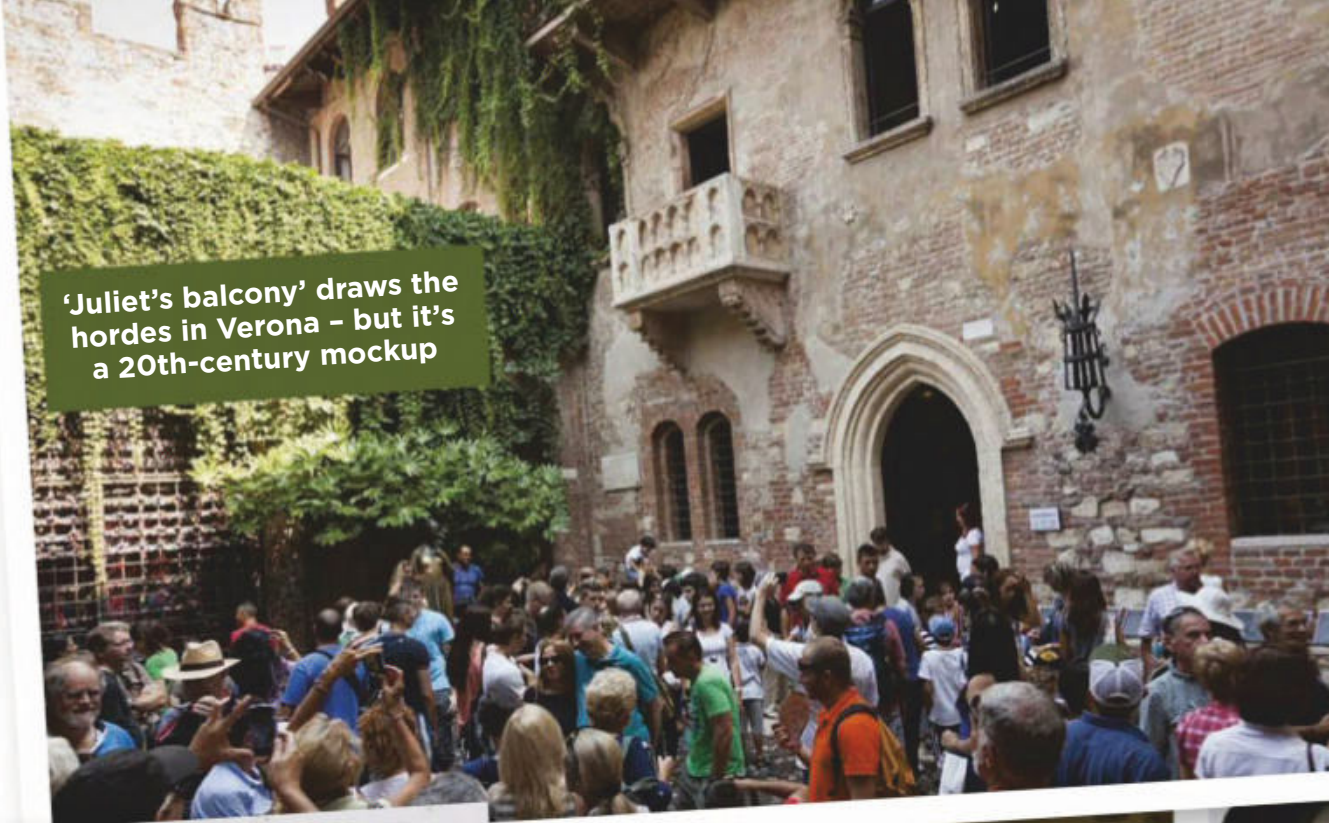
In 1572, one law stated: "All common players... who wander about and have not a licence shall be taken, adjudged and deemed rogues, vagabonds and sturdy beggars." This gave the city authorities some control over the rapidly expanding theatre industry and meant that actors could be arrested and imprisoned if they continued to perform without the right paperwork.

Ironically, it was the expulsion of all players from the City of London in 1575 that led to the construction of England's first permanent playhouses. Theatres sprang up on the south bank of the Thames and beyond the city walls – locations that were outside of the jurisdiction of city officials. The area already had a thriving entertainment industry in the form of animal-baiting arenas, brothels and taverns, which were also deemed undesirable.

In 1576, John Brayne and James Burbage built the Theatre just outside London's city walls. Newington Butts Theatre was built to the south of the city in the same year, and further theatres, such as the Curtain and the Rose, would follow. If Elizabethan players were no longer permitted to bring their plays to audiences, then audiences would have to come to them.



A 17th-century engraving of London showing the Globe Theatre (right foreground) on the Thames's south bank



GREENES, GROATS-WORTH of witte, bought with a million of Repentance.

Describing the follie of youth, the falshood of make-
upste flatterers, the miserie of the negligent,
and mischiefs of deceiuing
Courtizans.

Written before his death and published at his
dyeing request,

Felicem fuisse infaustum.



LONDON
Imprinted for William Wright.
1 5 9 2.



ABOVE: The wealthy Henry Wriothesley, third Earl of Southampton, whose patronage was sought by Shakespeare

LEFT: *Greenes Groats-Worth of Witte*, which calls Shakespeare an "upstart Crow"

1587, is by Shfordus Cestriensis, which could translate as "Shakespeare from Stratford [in the diocese] of Chester", while a third entry from 1589 names the visitor as Gulielmus Clerkue Stratfordiensis ("William the Clerk from Stratford"). Shakespeare does seem to have had some knowledge of Italy – around a third of his plays were at least partially based there – but the question of whether he ever visited Rome or Venice or Sicily or Verona is likely to remain unanswered.

Whatever Shakespeare may or may not have done before reaching London, the earliest printed mention of him appears in *Greenes Groats-Worth of Witte*, a book by the playwright Robert Greene supposedly written on his deathbed. Published in 1592, the book contains public criticism of some of his enemies, including William Shakespeare.

"There is an upstart Crow, beautified with our feathers, that with his Tygers hart wrapt in a Players hyde, supposes he is as well able to bombast out a blanke verse as the best of you: and beeing an absolute Johannes fac

totum is in his owne conceit the onely Shake-scene in a countrey," he writes.

The "upstart Crow" he refers to is William Shakespeare, whom Greene criticises for believing he can write as well as the best scholars, despite not attending university. Described as an "Johannes fac totum" (Jack of all trades) for being both actor and playwright, Shakespeare clearly inspired jealousy in Greene for his obvious talent and rapid advance. Indeed, by 1592, Shakespeare is already believed to have completed a number of works, including *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Henry VI*.

PLAGUE STOPS PLAY

But in June 1592, after Shakespeare had been working for a period of probably four or five years as a writer and actor on the London stage, a devastating outbreak of plague forced the closure of the city's theatres. Some actors chose to take their plays out of London and on tour, but Shakespeare turned his talents to writing poetry, for which he became equally well known. His first publication, *Venus*



MAIN: Due to safety regulations, the reconstructed Globe holds around 1,500, instead of the original 3,000

RIGHT: Shakespeare performed at Elizabeth I's court



and *Adonis*, was published in 1593 and dedicated to Henry Wriothesley, third Earl of Southampton – a move possibly acknowledging the patronage of the wealthy young earl. The following year, he published *The Rape of Lucrece*, a work also dedicated to Wriothesley.

By the summer of 1594, the plague had subsided and London's playhouses reopened once more. Touring companies returned to the city and took to the stage. Elizabeth I, a lover of the theatre, had in 1559 decided that players should be licensed. By the 1590s, this new rule had seen the many informal troupes of actors replaced by official touring companies, each headed by a patron from among the Queen's leading courtiers. Elizabeth herself had initially championed her own troupe, the Queen's Men. Following their break-up, two other troupes dominated the London scene: the Admiral's Men, led by Charles Howard, 1st Earl of Nottingham, and the Lord Chamberlain's Men, headed by Henry Carey, 1st Baron Hunsdon. Shakespeare had made the most of his enforced time off-stage and emerged in 1594 as a member of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, one of the most prominent companies in the city.

As a founding member, actor, playwright and shareholder in the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Shakespeare's writing talents would have been more in demand than ever before. His role as the troupe's regular dramatist meant that Shakespeare probably produced

“Elizabethan London was a maze of dirty streets, bustling with traders, prostitutes, animals and thieves”

an average of two plays a year and, as a shareholder, benefited financially from the company's income. The group performed at court on more than 170 occasions, often acting Shakespeare's own plays, and had even invested in its own playhouse: the Globe.

Shakespeare amassed considerable wealth during his time with the Lord Chamberlain's Men, but historians continue to question how, in 1594, he could afford to purchase shares in the company, and buy one of the largest houses in Stratford, New Place, just three years later. At a time when the average wage of a schoolteacher was £20 a year, the house alone cost Shakespeare around £120. This was a huge sum of money.

Some historians have suggested that, instead of being the impoverished writer and actor he is often portrayed as, Shakespeare actually received financial aid from his family that helped him buy

To collaborate, or not to collaborate... that is the question

For centuries, scholars and historians have wondered whether Shakespeare alone was responsible for the wealth of written material attributed to him in his lifetime. With the concept of copyright not widely recognised, it was common for playwrights to copy and adapt each other's works, as well as make major contributions to new plays by others.

Writing plays during the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods was a collaborative business, and there's no reason to think Shakespeare was any different to his contemporaries. What's more, with the huge appetite among London audiences for new plays, collaborating with another author was the quickest way to meet a deadline. Analysis of *Henry VI, Part 1*, for example, suggests that Shakespeare wrote less than 20 per cent of the text – in fact, the number of different

writing styles within the play would suggest it was written by a team of people.

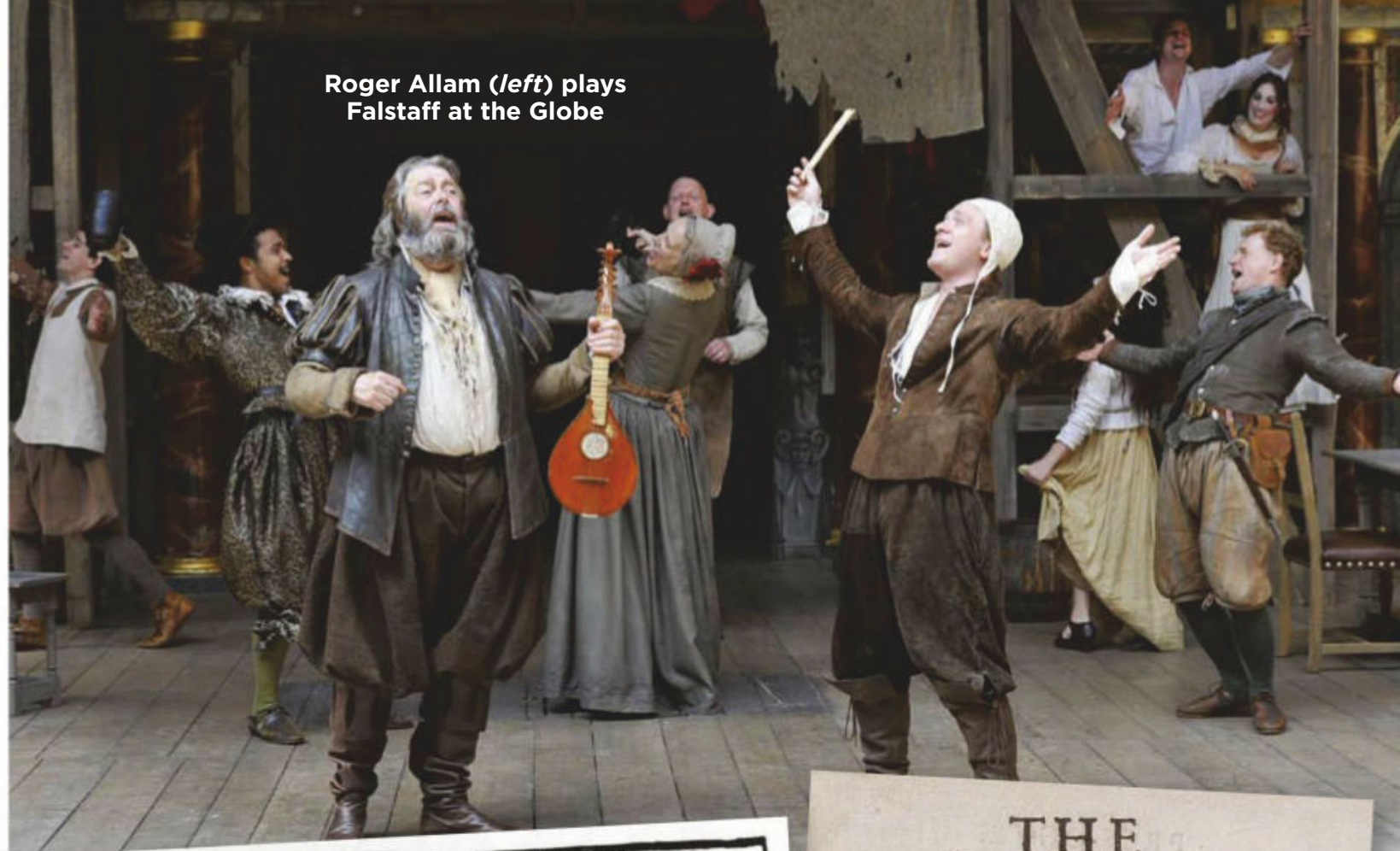
George Peele is believed to have worked with Shakespeare on *Titus Andronicus*; Thomas Middleton did work on *Macbeth*, *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Measure for Measure*; while his reputed rival Christopher Marlowe is credited as co-author of the *Henry VI* trilogy. In fact, 17 of 44 plays attributed to William Shakespeare are now thought to have been written in tandem with other playwrights.

Christopher Marlowe, killed at the age of 29, was a huge influence on Shakespeare



up shares in his company, as well as land and property around Stratford and London. Research suggests that John Shakespeare, as well as making gloves, was also dealing in wool – an expensive and highly regulated commodity in the 16th century. Licences to buy and sell wool were restricted to dedicated traders, and it was illegal to do business without one. Yet historian David Fallow has suggested that John Shakespeare was actually investing in wool on a national level, often on the black market, and making a great deal of money as a result. This, he believes, could explain William Shakespeare's move to London at some point between 1585 and 1592. With the majority of wool exports made through the capital, John would have needed a trusted London representative. Enter William Shakespeare.

Whatever reason Shakespeare had for moving to London, the city would have been a far cry from the gentle pace of life in Stratford-upon-Avon. Elizabethan London was a maze of narrow, dirty streets, bustling with traders, prostitutes, beggars, thieves and animals. All of human life was there, from the very rich to the very poor. Shakespeare himself lived in lodgings during his time in the city – he can be traced to Bishopsgate, Bankside and Cripplegate at various points during his stay. But he was most likely anything but the lonely genius he is often made out to be. Plays like *Henry IV, Part 1*, which is set almost entirely in a Eastcheap pub, indicate that Shakespeare enjoyed a vibrant social life and was clearly familiar with the capital's alehouses. He may also have been no stranger to the seedier side of street life – Shakespeare scholar Duncan Salkeld believes the mysterious



Roger Allam (left) plays Falstaff at the Globe

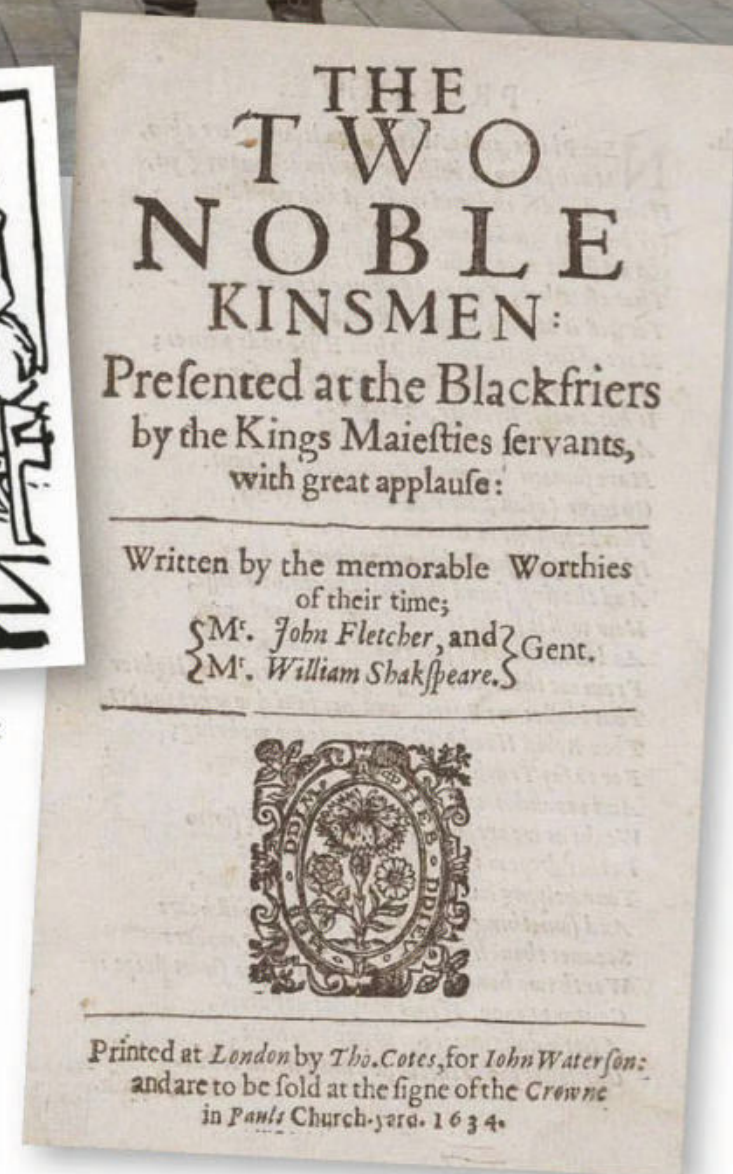


Dark Lady of his sonnets may have been a London prostitute known as "Lucy Negro" or "Black Luce", who ran a notorious bawdy house in Clerkenwell.

While Shakespeare was forging ahead with a successful career in London, Anne and their children appear to have remained in Stratford, although it's probable that Shakespeare returned to his hometown frequently. In 1597, he

ABOVE: No stranger to the boozers: a pub in England at the time of Shakespeare

RIGHT: One of Shakespeare's last plays was co-authored with John Fletcher



SHAKESPEARE IN NUMBERS



900

The estimated number of plays written in the Elizabethan era. Up to half of these were collaborations

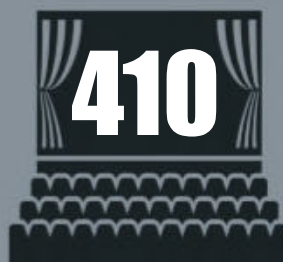
358

The number of speeches made by Hamlet – the most of all Shakespeare's characters



154

The number of sonnets believed to have been written by Shakespeare



410

The average number of professional productions of Shakespeare every year between 1959 and 2015, according to the World Shakespeare Bibliography online database

74

Death toll in Shakespeare's plays, including...



moved his family into New Place, one of the grandest houses in Stratford, just a 10-minute walk from where he was born. The house was a public declaration of its owner's success and wealth, but the purchase would have been tinged with sadness – the previous year the couple's only son, Hamnet, had died, aged just 11.

If Shakespeare wrote about his son's death, it has since been lost to history, but in his play *King John*, thought to have been written in 1596, he describes the near-physical pain experienced by a mother after her son's death: "Grief fills the room up of my absent child / Lies in his bed, walks up and down with me, / Puts on his pretty looks, repeats his words, / Remembers me of all his gracious parts, / Stuffs out his vacant garments with his form."

In 1611, at the age of 47, Shakespeare retired from London life and returned to his family in Stratford. His eldest daughter, Susanna, had married

physician John Hall in 1607 and Shakespeare now had a granddaughter, Elizabeth. From his comfortable home, he attended to his business affairs in Stratford and wrote what was to be one of his last plays, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, in collaboration with John Fletcher, around 1613.

Five years after his return to Warwickshire, at the age of 52, Shakespeare breathed his last, and is thought to have died on 23 April 1616. Two days later, he was buried in the chancel of Stratford's Church of the Holy Trinity. The cause of Shakespeare's death is unknown – one theory cites that he contracted a fever after a drinking binge with fellow playwrights Ben Jonson and Michael Drayton. Another, more likely explanation is that Shakespeare was ill for several weeks before he finally died – on 25 March 1616 he dictated his will, which could indicate that he knew his days were numbered.



Kenneth Branagh as Shakespeare with Lydia Wilson as his daughter Susanna in the new Bard biopic *All Is True*

His grave carries no name – just a chilling curse: "Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear, / To dig the dust enclosed here. / Blessed be the man that spares these stones, / And cursed be he that moves my bones." 🎯



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you believe that Shakespeare was the real author of his plays?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2016, non-invasive ground-penetrating radar was used to examine Shakespeare's grave. It found that the playwright's skull is missing – probably stolen by grave-robbers in the 18th century.



Shakespeare's grave in Stratford-upon-Avon. He was buried only three-feet deep, in a shroud instead of a coffin

"What's done cannot be undone" (Macbeth, Act V, Scene I)

Shakespeare's popularity has continued to bloom since his death, and in 1890 one of the Bard's biggest fans honoured him with an act that would have dramatic unforeseen consequences.

Eugene Schieffelin, an eccentric US drug manufacturer, decided to demonstrate his love for Shakespeare by introducing to North America every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. The list was extensive – more than 60 species. On 6 March 1890, he released 60 starlings into New York's Central Park, followed by a further 40 the following year.

It's unclear how many species of European bird Schieffelin managed to set free in America. None of the nightingales and skylarks previously released by the American Acclimatization Society, to which Schieffelin belonged, had survived. Sixty-eight of his starlings also perished in their new environment, but the remaining 32 set up home, fittingly, beneath the eaves of the American Museum of Natural History, just west of the park, and survived the bitterly cold winter.

Today, some 200 million ancestors of those plucky European originals can be found from Alaska to Mexico. But their presence is not cause for celebration: an estimated \$800m of crop damage is attributed to starlings every year – something Schieffelin could never have predicted.

An English sparrow and European starling take a bath in Washington, DC



April fools that went wrong

They're supposed to be funny, but all too often the hoaxes and japes of 1 April get out of hand and backfire on the pranksters



In 1984 'Kugel' was said to be the original April fool



Mount St Helens eventually erupted on 18 May; it has since been labelled as the worst in US history

HERE'S ONE OFF THE TOP OF MY NOODLE

In 1984, an Associated Press reporter asked Professor Joseph Boskin of Boston University about the origins of April Fool's Day. Pressed for an answer, Boskin invented a jester, Kugel, who had told a Roman emperor he could do a better job and was made emperor for a day – during which he called for absurdity and pranks, starting the tradition. The tale was picked up by other media and it took weeks for them to get the joke: Kugel is a Jewish pudding, often made with noodles.

ONE LAST LESSON

A schoolgirl prank got out of hand in 1897. Girls at the prestigious Lucy Cobb Institute in Georgia, US, thought it would be hilarious to abscond from school and have a day of fun. As well as missing school, they also made the unladylike decision to wander around the town unchaperoned. What they weren't expecting was for their headmistress to quickly write a letter to all of their parents, asking for their removal from the school to ensure its reputation was maintained.

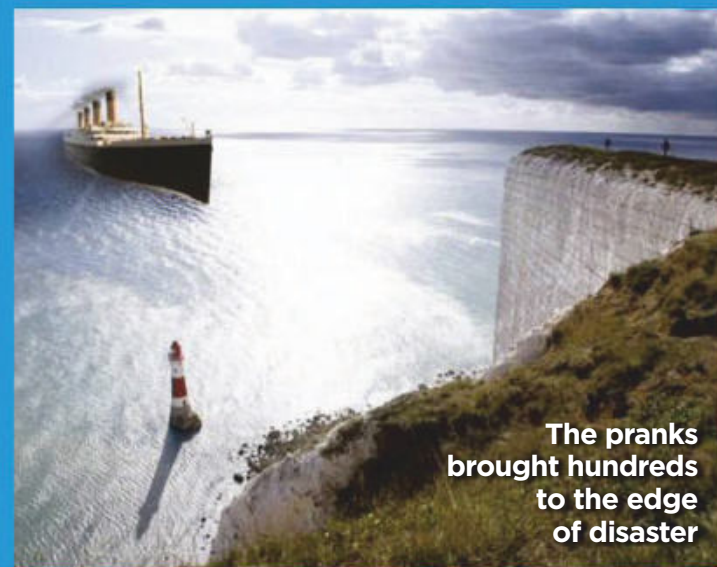


No more teachers: school's out ... forever

WAR GAMES

Tensions in the Middle East in the 1980s were no laughing matter. In 1986, an Israeli intelligence analyst created a false April Fool's Day report stating that Nabih Berri, the leader of the Amal Movement (one of the factions in the Lebanese Civil War) had been wounded in an assassination attempt. The story spread across Israeli radio before it was found to be a hoax, and it had to be retracted to prevent an international incident. The analyst was court-martialled and Israel's defence minister faced questions in parliament.

Nabih Berri's hoax 'assassination' could have had dangerous consequences



The pranks brought hundreds to the edge of disaster

THIS ONE'S A REAL CRACKER

In 2001, a Brighton DJ told his listeners that a replica of the RMS *Titanic* could be seen off the coast of Beachy Head in East Sussex – the highest chalk sea cliffs in Britain. Hundreds of people rushed to the spot, only to discover it had all been a joke. The cliffs developed a five-foot crack under the enormous strain of the crowds, with police urging people to leave before tragedy struck. Two days later, part of the cliffs collapsed into the sea.

The news clip showed a real volcano, but it was more than 3,000 miles away

IT CERTAINLY BLEW UP

A 1980 news report spread fear among the residents of Milton, Massachusetts, when it reported that a local (and distinctly non-volcanic) hill was erupting. They backed up their spurious claim with footage of Mount St Helens in Washington, a volcano that was actually close to erupting, with an old commentary from President Jimmy Carter. At the end of the segment a card was held up saying 'April Fool' but it was too late. The police were inundated with calls from concerned citizens, many of whom were considering leaving their homes. The executive producer for the news was fired for his failure to "exercise good news judgment".

News of an alien invasion is a perennial favourite among pranksters



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE ABSURD KIND

The threat of aliens came to the town of Jafr in Jordan in 2010. A newspaper jokingly reported (on its front page) that a UFO had landed near the desert town, with 10-foot aliens sighted. Reports of communications being affected terrified the residents, with parents too scared to send their children to school, while the local mayor considered a full evacuation. In the US, the prank was likened to the 1938 broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*, which some mistook as being real.

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

English astrologer John Partridge was known for his inaccurate predictions and criticism of the Church. He attracted the attention of the satirist and author of *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift, who decided to have some fun. Writing under the pseudonym Isaac Bickerstaff, he made a prediction of Partridge's death in 1708. Swift later wrote under the alias of a revenue official, confirming the death – this news became public on 1 April. Partridge protested but he never shook the rumours of his untimely demise and his career suffered until his eventual death six years later.

Partridge insisted he was still alive, but few believed him

suffered until his eventual death six years later.



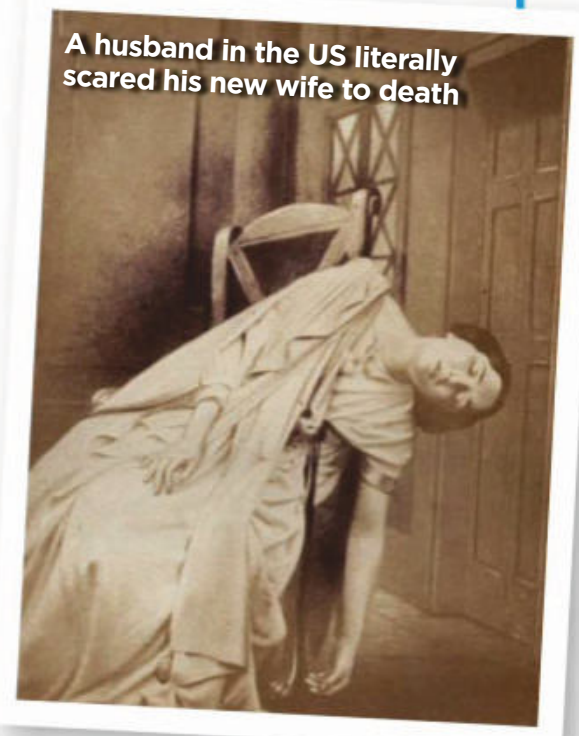
SOMETHING IN THE WATER...

It's fascinating what the power of words can do. In 2002, radio hosts in Kansas City created panic among listeners by reporting that local tap water contained high levels of dihydrogen monoxide. They warned that this naturally occurring substance could lead to frequent urination and wrinkling of the skin. It's not as bad as it sounds: dihydrogen monoxide is the chemical name for water. The police received more than 100 calls from worried residents and a city official likened the hoax to a terrorist act.

KILLING JOKE

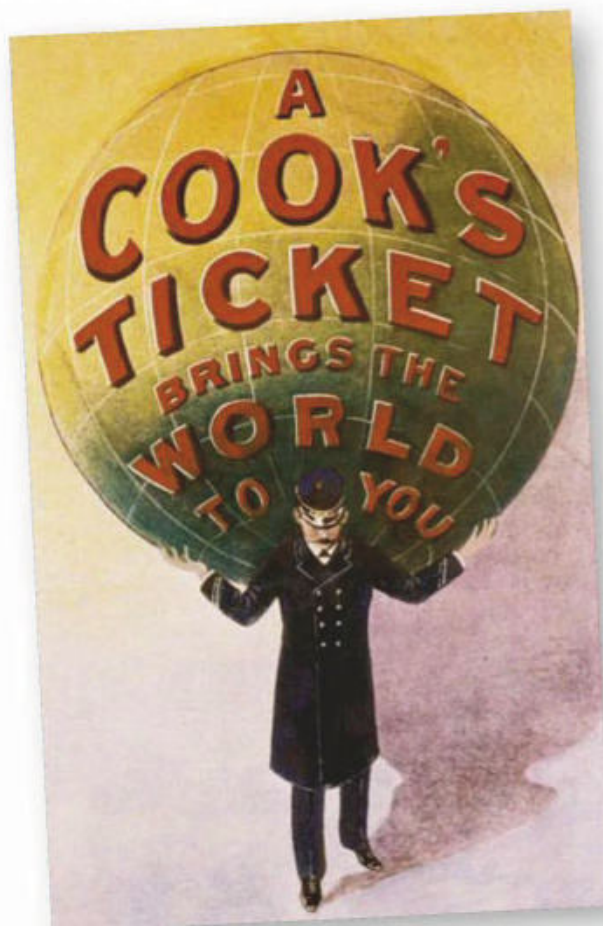
John Ahrens probably didn't intend the tragic consequences of his prank. Near Nashville in 1896, he thought it would be hilarious to disguise himself as a tramp with a white mask to scare his wife. He knocked on his front door to greet her and ask her to start cooking dinner – she fainted immediately and died within an hour. They had only been married a few months and Ahrens became overwhelmed with grief.

A husband in the US literally scared his new wife to death



SHIP OF FOOLS

In 1972, *The Times* ran an article on British travel agent Thomas Cook celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founder's first round-the-world tour. A few pages later, the paper joked that the travel agent offered a round-the-world trip for the price it would have been in 1872: 210 guineas. This was a fabrication, but queues formed in Thomas Cook shops across the country and the poor reporter lost his job.



A reporter was left feeling the weight of the world on his shoulders after a failed joke cost him his job



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you know of any more historical pranks that backfired?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



The 1982 film *Gandhi* dramatised the moment the British opened fire. The incident cemented the Indian activist's belief that British rule in India had to end

AMRITSAR

DAY OF SHAME

A century ago, hundreds of innocent civilians were massacred on the orders of a brutal British general. **Nige Tassell** looks at a watershed moment in Indian history

When the Punjabi city of Amritsar woke from its fitful sleep on 14 April 1919, its population remained frozen by the twin emotions of disbelief and horror. Less than 12 hours earlier, one of the 20th century's most brutal peacetime atrocities had taken place within its city limits.

In a small, walled-in area of open ground known as Jallianwala Bagh, a 20,000-strong crowd had gathered for both a public meeting and to celebrate the Sikh festival of Baisakhi. Instead they were exposed to ten long minutes

of indiscriminate Indian Army gunfire which, directed by an English brigadier-general, took the lives of hundreds of unarmed citizens. As the bullets rained down on those frantically trying to flee the scene through the park's narrow exits, the bodies fell where they were hit, piling on top of each other, sometimes 12 corpses high. Among the dead were dozens of boys: one was as young as six weeks old.

As the Sun rose to signal another blisteringly hot day in the state of Punjab, the full horror of the previous evening made itself known. With a curfew in place the previous evening, those who had avoided the bloodbath were unable to recover the bodies of their loved ones. The majority had died instantly; those who were injured and unable to move at the time were likely to have perished overnight. The dead were subjected to the indignity of having stray dogs feast on their flesh. "The Bagh was like a battlefield," described Lala Karam Chand, a survivor of the prolonged shooting, who searched for his brother among the carnage. "There were corpses scattered everywhere in heaps."

RIISING TENSIONS

As shocking and significant as the Amritsar Massacre was, the violence didn't come from nowhere. In the few months since the end of World War I, discontent had been brewing across India – and across the Punjab in particular. In these immediate post-war years, Punjabis felt understandably aggrieved. Having served on the Allied

Thousands were trapped in the narrow exits of Jallianwala Bagh as they tried to escape the slaughter

side during the war (often having been recruited by strong-handed means), they were now feeling the brunt of the economic hardship that continued to dislocate much of the world in this new, young era of peace.

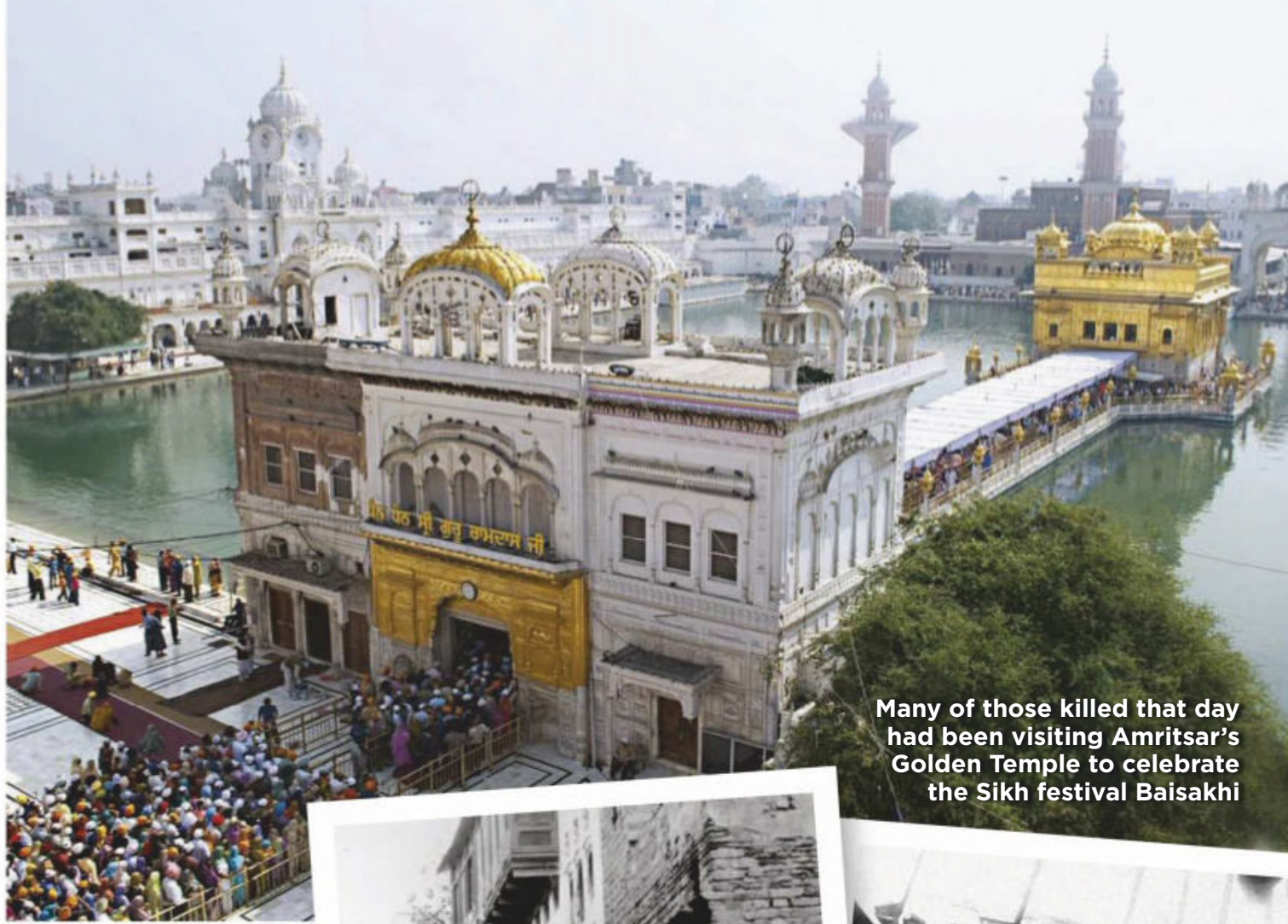
The Defence of India Act of 1915 had been passed in order to outlaw any indigenous political insurrection that might compromise the war effort. Now, in peace time, the British government sought to replace the legislation. The Rowlatt Act – enacted in March 1919 and named after its architect, Sir Sidney Rowlatt – was controversial, introducing some strident and deeply unfair measures. Local government was invested with the power to search people and property without a warrant, and to put civilians on trial in specially constructed courts where, if found guilty, there was no right to appeal.

Accordingly, there was a growing distrust of the British-led government right across the Punjab. This revolutionary, anti-colonial spirit was not only on the rise, but was crystallised in Amritsar with the imprisonment, and ordered deportation, of two significant Indian nationalists, one a Muslim lawyer (Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew), the other a Hindu who had previously served in the Royal Army Medical Corps (Dr Satyapal). On 10 April, rioting broke out in protest at the pair's intended deportation. Around 20 protestors lost their lives as a result, killed by the massed rifles of the Indian Army.

Retaliation came swiftly, with the more militant Indian activists setting their sights on white Europeans. Five lost their lives, killed at the hand of baying, bloodthirsty mobs. In the

centre of Amritsar, an English missionary teacher called Marcella Sherwood was knocked from her bike, set upon and left for dead; she only survived after being rescued by the father of one of her Indian pupils.

Punjab was now nothing short of a powder keg; the merest spark could set the region ablaze. Yet, on the day of the massacre in Amritsar, one man was confident that he could quell the insurrectionary tension that hung heavy in the air. His methods, though, would prove myopic, misguided and murderous.



Many of those killed that day had been visiting Amritsar's Golden Temple to celebrate the Sikh festival Baisakhi



Dyer declared this street, where Sherwood was assaulted, as 'sacred'; any Indian who wanted to pass had to do so by crawling



Angry mobs targeted British banks during the 10 April riots

Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer arrived in Amritsar on 11 April, charged with taking over the running of the city. He wasn't going in lightly, declaring that his soldiers had been instructed to use "all force necessary" to restore social order. He quickly swung into action. Two days later – the morning of the day of the

WHO WAS THE BUTCHER OF AMRITSAR?

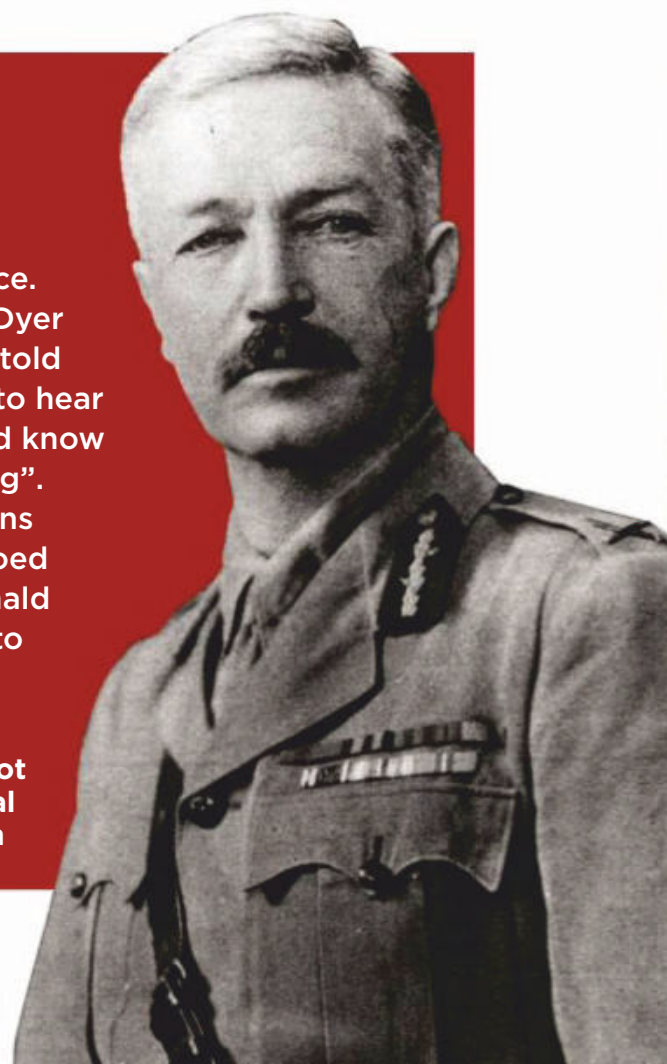
Although he was trained at Sandhurst and made a sharp upward trajectory through the ranks of the British Army, Reginald Dyer was far from the typical expat enjoying the benefits of the British Raj. He was born in India and had spent a fair proportion of his life as both boy and man on the subcontinent, and had the rare honour conferred upon him of being made a Sikh of the Golden Temple of Amritsar. As his biographer Nigel Collett notes, Dyer was "more of a stranger to the English than he ever was to the Indians amongst whom he lived almost all his life".

This background makes it trickier to understand his motivation to fire upon 20,000 trapped Indians on 13 April 1919. The ultimate irony is what those actions caused both to him personally and to his precious British Empire: having been stripped of his rank in 1920, he was exiled to England, where he failed to

resurrect his career and fell into ill health; meanwhile, the tragic events in Amritsar accelerated the call for Indian independence.

That devastating day rightfully plagued Dyer for the rest of his life. On his deathbed, he told his daughter-in-law that he was impatient to hear the final judgement: "I only want to die and know from my Maker whether I did right or wrong". The widespread condemnation of his actions from all around the world at the time (echoed in the 100 years since) suggests that Reginald Dyer didn't need to wait until the afterlife to find out the answer.

Though publicly humiliated, Dyer was not without supporters – a newspaper appeal raised a £26,000 purse for him



massacre – Dyer took to the streets of Amritsar to publicise the clampdown he was applying to the city.

Accompanied by foot soldiers and two armoured vehicles, he visited 19 locations. At each a town crier read aloud, in several languages, a list of fresh restrictions being placed on Amritsar's citizens. One new restriction in particular would have grave consequences within a matter of hours: "Any procession or gathering of four persons or more will be looked upon and treated as an unlawful assemble, and dispersed by force of arms if necessary."

Amritsar's streets were especially busy during Baisakhi, with many pilgrims travelling to and from the city's famous Golden Temple. The nearby Jallianwala Bagh was a convenient place to rest and recuperate, even if it was little more than a dusty wasteground. At the Bagh, Satyagraha Sabha – the civil disobedience movement recently formed by Mahatma Gandhi in opposition to the Rowlatt Acts – was holding a public meeting. Many of the attendees were unaware of the proclamation made earlier in the day that banned all but the smallest public gatherings.

When Dyer got wind of the numbers that had congregated at Jallianwala Bagh, he summoned some of his men, including 50 riflemen, and headed to the park. They arrived three hours after the rally had started, but didn't stop to assess the nature of the gathering. Setting his men on raised banks either side of the main entrance, the order to fire came within 30 seconds. Over the course of the next ten minutes, around 1,650 rounds were fired. There was little escape for the thousands trapped within the Bagh. Not only had Dyer's men blocked off the main exit, but the other exits were extremely narrow. And the walls surrounding the Bagh were ten-feet tall.

This was no scattergun assault. Dyer commanded his men to fire on the more densely populated areas of the Bagh; understandably these were the congested

exits. The casualties didn't just die from gunshot injuries; many were trampled to death in the ensuing stampedes. In order to escape the bullets, many jumped into the well in the centre of the Bagh. It was reported that 120 bodies were later recovered from the water. When his men had run out of ammunition, Dyer ordered them to withdraw and return to their barracks. Several hundred victims, either dead or dying, were given no attention. The brigadier-general simply left the scene of the crime.

SHEER BRUTALITY

The severity and swiftness of the incident were chilling. "The grating sounds of rifle fire, combined with the screams and cries of the crowd, made for a horrid cacophony that echoed around the Bagh and into the surrounding streets," wrote the military historian Nick Lloyd, who has written a book on the massacre. "Many years later, people in Amritsar would still recall the roar that was produced when Dyer's 50 rifles opened fire."

There was no denying that Dyer's orders were brutal and inhumane, despite subsequent attempts to defend his actions. "There could be no question of undue severity," he rather astonishingly remarked later. "The mutineers had thrown out the challenge, and the punishment, if administered at all, must be complete, unhesitating and immediate." He even admitted that, had his armoured vehicles been able to fit through the main entrance to the Bagh, he would have set their machine guns on the crowd.

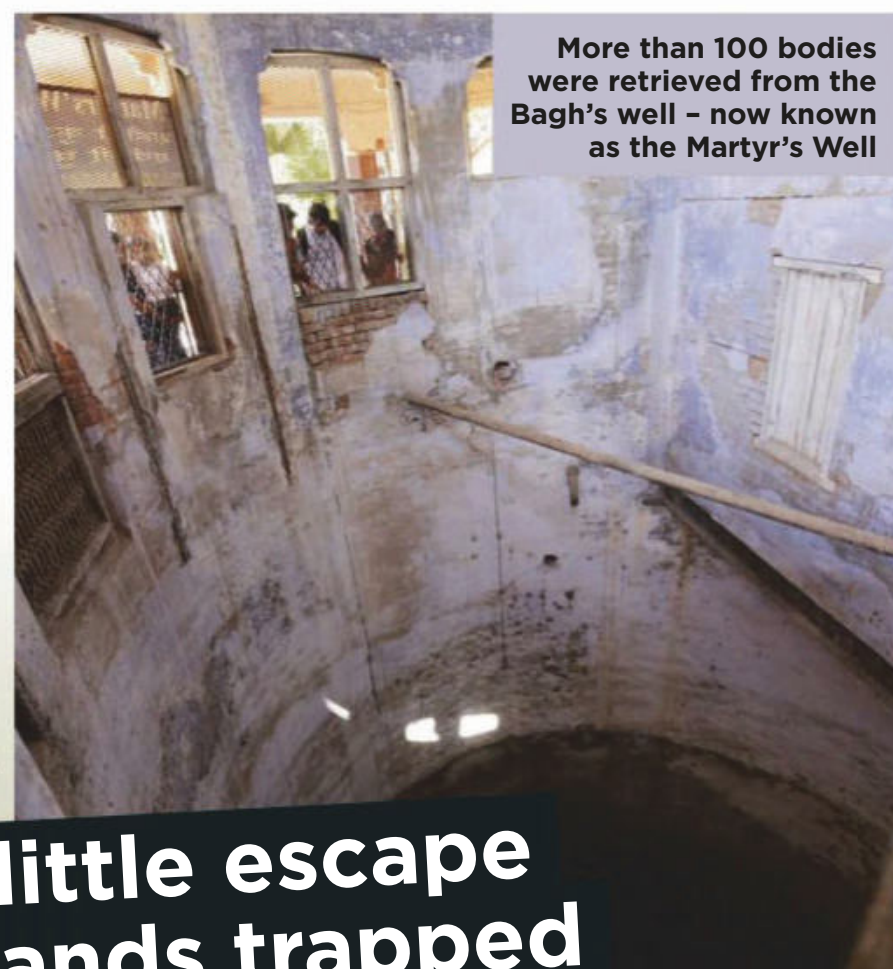
The British government appointed the Hunter Commission to hold an inquiry into the massacre, an investigation boycotted by the Indian National Congress, which embarked on its own inquiry into the brutality of that day. Despite wildly conflicting casualty



A painting reminds visitors to the Bagh of the atrocity that was committed there



Bullet marks from the brutal event can still be seen at Jallianwala Bagh



More than 100 bodies were retrieved from the Bagh's well – now known as the Martyr's Well

"There was little escape for the thousands trapped within the Bagh"

Jallianwala Bagh wasn't only filled with pilgrims; traders, merchants and farmers involved in a cattle fair were shot down too

Amritsar's Flame of Liberty monument commemorates the men, women and children killed



Michael O'Dwyer, governor-general of the Punjab at the time of the massacre, was gunned down by an Indian revolutionary in 1940

an event which stands in singular and sinister isolation."

An overwhelming House of Commons vote saw Dyer stripped of his position in March 1920. An existing recommendation for him to be awarded a CBE was rescinded. He was overlooked for promotion and disqualified from further employment in India – the place of his birth and where he spent a large part of his childhood and adult life.

As much as Dyer was the villain of the piece, some historians also blame Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, whose expulsion of the two Indian nationalists had sparked the unrest. He enthusiastically backed Dyer's actions and is thought by some to be the real architect of the massacre. Whatever the level of his involvement, the events in Amritsar ultimately led to his demise. Twenty-one years later, in 1940, O'Dwyer was assassinated in London by Udham Singh, an Indian revolutionary. It was a case of revenge. "I did it because I had a grudge against him," Singh explained at his trial, where he would be convicted and hanged. "He deserved it. He was the real culprit. He wanted to crush the spirit of my people, so I have crushed him."

PATRIOT MARTYRS

Today, 100 years on from the atrocity, a permanent memorial notice at Jallianwala Bagh reminds visitors of the barbarity witnessed that April day in 1919. "This place is saturated with the blood of thousands of Indian patriots," reads the inscription, "who were martyred in a non-violent struggle to free India from British domination."

The massacre marked a strengthening in the resolve and the militancy of

THE BRITISH RAJ – A BRIEF HISTORY

The Raj refers to the 89 years that the British Crown ruled India. Previously under the rule of the East India Company, India came under the control of the crown in 1858, with Queen Victoria recognised as Empress of India in 1876. In Victoria's words, the aim of the arrangement was: "to stimulate the peaceful industry of India, to promote works of public utility and improvement, and to administer its government for the benefit of all our subjects".

Under a Secretary of State for India answerable to the British parliament, and a viceroy based in Calcutta (now Kolkata), a programme of infrastructure improvements was embarked upon. A substantial railway network was constructed, and thousands of miles of metalled roads built. The respective economies dovetailed; India became a major market for British exports, while supplying Britain with goods such as tea, rice and cotton.

However, the way British values were imposed on India, and the racially superior outlook such impositions were based on, fuelled the movement for Indian independence. The Indian National Congress fought hard for national self-determination and, in 1947, the British Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act. India became its own sovereign state, albeit in reduced form, following Partition – the splitting of India in two, which created the nation state of Pakistan.



Before the creation of the British Raj in 1858, the subcontinent was ruled by the East India Company

the Indian independence movement, with O'Dwyer and Dyer's actions precipitating a process that would ultimately end in the partition of the country. Gandhi, for one, found his commitment to rejecting every facet of British rule immeasurably emboldened by the massive loss of life. As Nick Lloyd concludes, that fateful, inexplicably bloody day in Amritsar continues to represent "a fatal parting of the ways between British and Indian that would never be mended".

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The US cutter
Spencer attacks
U-boat *U-175*
as it disrupts an
Allied merchant
convoy in 1943



SURFACE TENSION

Gavin Mortimer delivers an explosive tale of how the British ignored the German U-boat threat in the early days of WWII – and why that nearly cost them the war

12
8
4

On the second day of September 1939, a 13,000-ton liner, *SS Athenia*, of the Donaldson Atlantic Line, set sail from Liverpool for Montreal, across the Atlantic Ocean. Among the 1,103 passengers were a number of German Jews and 72 British nationals, along with 315 crew, under the command of Captain James Cook.

The next day, the *Athenia* was making good progress as passengers sat down to dinner. There was only one topic of conversation: the message pinned to the ship's noticeboard that morning announcing Britain's declaration of war on Germany.

Not all passengers had an appetite. A few, like Mrs McMillan Wallace, were getting some fresh air on the promenade deck. Suddenly from the crow's nest she heard a yell: "Submarine!" She looked out to sea and saw an ominous white wake.

Lieutenant Fritz-Julius Lemp sounded the klaxon for battle stations, as *U-30* dipped below the surface of the Atlantic to attack what he thought was "an armed merchant cruiser" travelling at 16 knots. When the U-boat was 1,600 yards from its target, Lemp "called out his firing intervals for a spread of four torpedoes". Back came the message: "Torpedoes loose!"

GRAVE MISTAKE

At 7.43pm, the *Athenia* shook with a mighty explosion. The ship listed to port, and diners screamed in confusion as tables, chairs and cutlery went flying. In the melee, husbands were separated from wives, mothers from children and sisters from brothers. The crew rushed to lower the 26 lifeboats, as a few hundred yards away the crew of *U-30* roared their delight. They had struck the first submarine blow for the fatherland, sinking an armed cruiser less than 12 hours after the declaration of war.

But as Lemp ordered the U-boat's withdrawal, the wireless picked up a distress signal. It wasn't an armed cruiser slipping beneath the waves: it was a passenger ship. "What a mess," muttered a shocked Lemp. "What a mess."

A few hours before 117 passengers and crew went down with the *Athenia*, Winston Churchill had been appointed First Lord of the Admiralty in the war cabinet formed by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. One of Churchill's first calls was to Admiral Dudley Pound,



Lieutenant Fritz-Julius Lemp (left) salutes fleet commander Karl Dönitz in 1940

When Hitler learned Lemp had sunk the *SS Athenia*, *U-30's* log was falsified to cover it up



ABOVE: Winston Churchill (right) with Admiral Dudley Pound, Britain's First Sea Lord, in 1943

RIGHT: Among the passengers on the *Athenia* were Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution



the First Sea Lord, who provided a thorough briefing on the state of the Royal Navy. Unfortunately, Pound was the head of a service dangerously naive to the threat posed by U-boats. In the late 1930s, senior figures at the Admiralty thought that the errors made during the U-boat campaign of World War I had convinced Germany that submarine warfare was not of strategic benefit.

There was also the Second London Naval Treaty, signed by 30 countries in 1936 (including Germany), which outlawed 'unrestricted warfare' at sea. For these reasons, the Admiralty believed the naval battles of World War II would be between surface vessels.

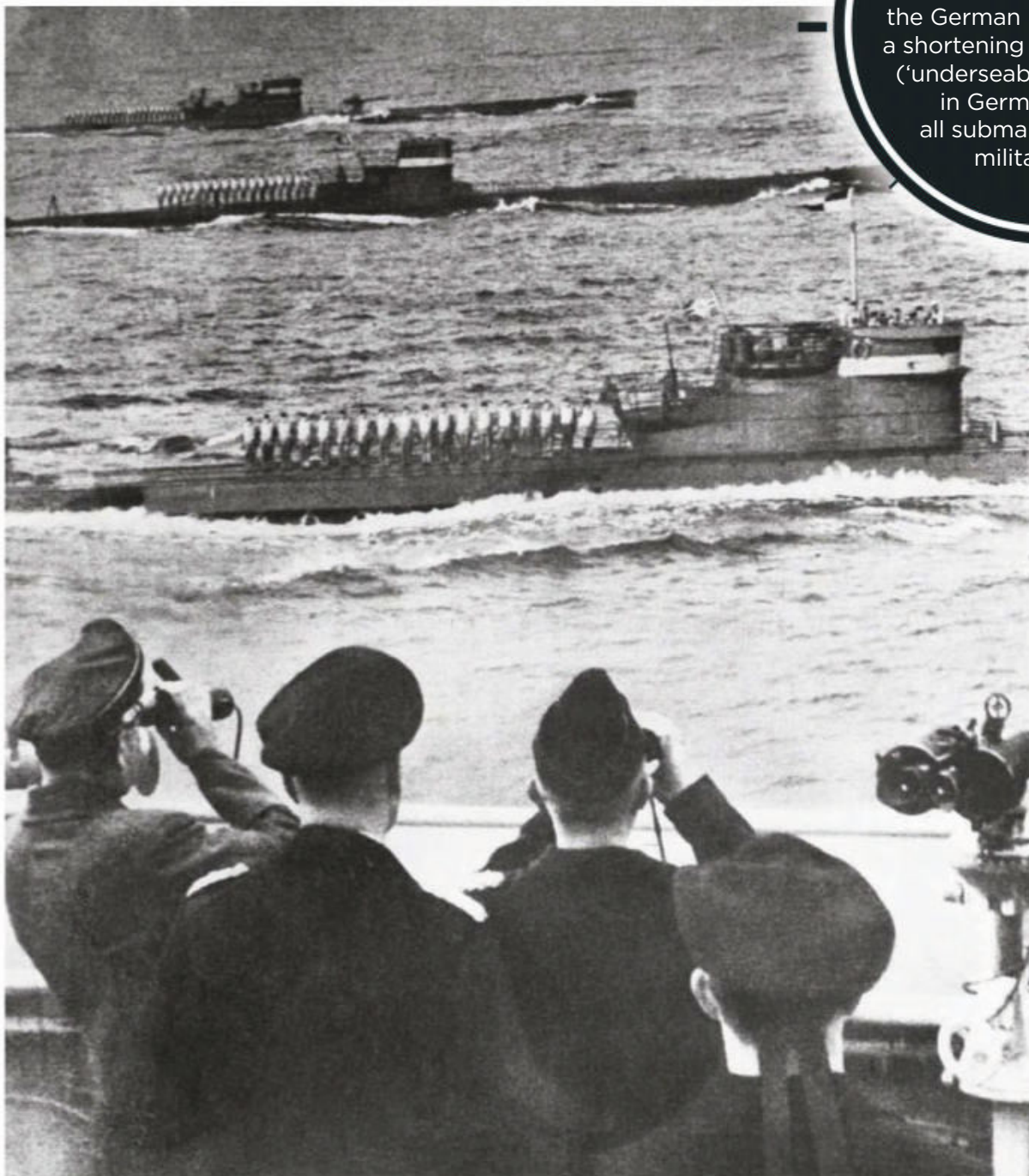
A CRISIS FOR CHURCHILL

The sinking of the *Athenia* presented Churchill with his first crisis. Informed that the Germans had 60 U-boats (they had in fact 46) with 100 more in

production, he introduced the convoy system – whereby merchant ships sailed en masse with naval escorts – but there was a problem: the Admiralty's complacency in the interwar years had resulted in a lack of suitable vessels. Some ships would just have to take their chances crossing the Atlantic.

The dismay felt by Churchill at the sinking of the *Athenia* was replicated by Adolf Hitler. He was well aware of the mistakes made during World War I, when U-boat attacks on American vessels had precipitated that country's entry into the war. The Führer didn't want to provoke US President Franklin Roosevelt and cause the past to repeat. "Until further orders, no hostile action will be taken against passenger liners, even when sailing under escort," he ordered, a command that frustrated Rear Admiral Karl Dönitz, who was in charge of the U-boat fleet.

"THE DISMAY FELT BY CHURCHILL AT THE SINKING OF THE ATHENIA WAS REPLICATED BY HITLER"



DID YOU KNOW?

U-boat is an anglicisation of the German *U-Boot*, which is a shortening of *Unterseeboot* ('underseaboat'). The word in German refers to all submarines, not just military ones.



A German U-boat torpedoed the *Lusitania* in 1915, killing almost a thousand civilians

LESSONS FROM WWI

Germany's fleet of 30 submarines did not concern the Royal Navy at the start of the World War I, and the Admiralty's view was that using warships on 'defensive' convoy duties when they could be operating offensively against the German surface vessels sent the wrong message to the public. This narrow vision characterised the outdated thinking in the top echelon of the Royal Navy, and by the end of 1916 there was a shortage of essential food reaching Britain – especially imported grain with which to bake bread. The situation deteriorated in early 1917 when the Kaiser permitted his U-boat fleet – now 70-strong – to sink any vessel it encountered in a bid to starve Britain into suing for peace.

Still furious at the loss of 128 US lives when a U-boat sunk the RMS *Lusitania* in 1915, President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany in April 1917 after a series of American merchant vessels had been torpedoed. One of the immediate benefits for Britain of America's entry into the war was the deployment of more than 40 US warships on convoy duty. This drastically reduced U-boat attacks on merchant shipping and enabled vital foodstuffs to reach Britain.

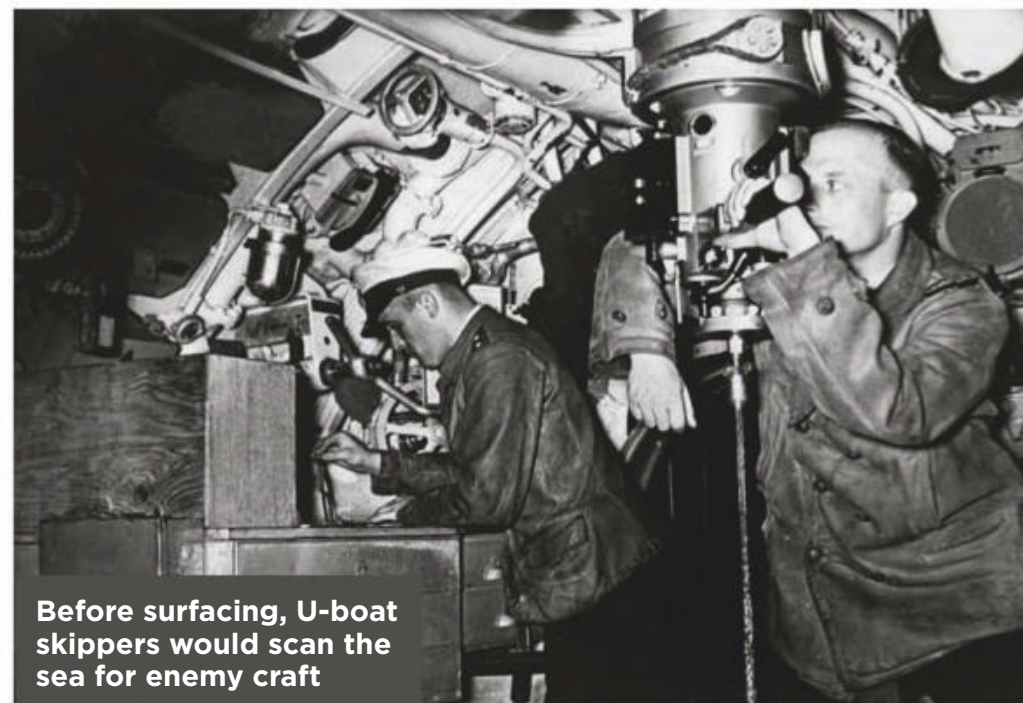


ABOVE: Adolf Hitler with navy chief Erich Raeder (right) in 1938
LEFT: Three new U-boats, their crews standing to attention, pass for inspection before Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz in 1944

A U-boat finishes off a torpedoed vessel with shots from its gun deck in the Atlantic, 1941

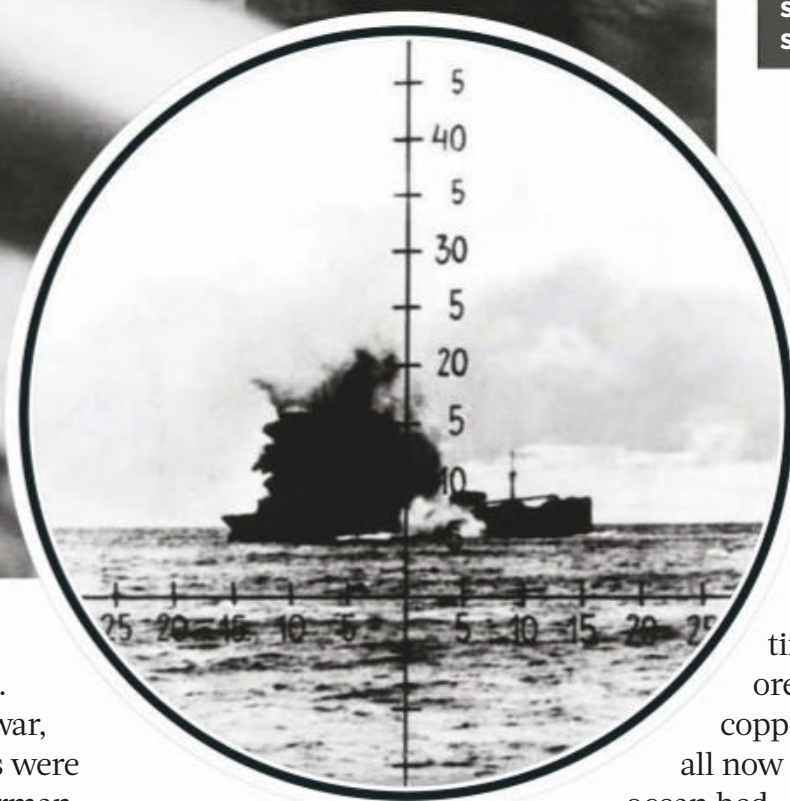


U-boats travelled mostly on the water surface, diving only to attack



Before surfacing, U-boat skippers would scan the sea for enemy craft

“FOUR DAYS OUT OF ENGLAND, THE SS CITY OF BENARES WAS HIT BY A U-BOAT TORPEDO JUST AS 11-YEAR-OLD FRED STEELS CLIMBED INTO BED”



An Allied vessel is sunk by a U-boat torpedo in 1943. By the end of the war, U-boats had sent nearly 3,000 Allied ships to the ocean floor

It wasn't Dönitz's only irritation. A U-boat commander in the first war, he was convinced that submarines were the most potent weapon in the German navy, and the best means to defeat the country's Allied adversaries.

This strategy wasn't shared by Erich Raeder, head of the navy, who believed surface vessels were the most effective way to fight the British at sea. A pessimist compared with the more positive Dönitz, Raeder baulked at his subordinate's demand for a fleet of 300 U-boats, despite the damage they inflicted. Between September and December 1939, the U-boats sank 110 merchant vessels, the consequences of which were soon felt in Britain. With 70 per cent of its food supply imported, Britain could ill afford to lose so many ships. There were also the precious metals required for the war effort:

tin, lead, iron ore, aluminium, copper and zinc – all now resting on the ocean bed.

This situation wasn't what the Royal Navy had envisaged in the build-up to war, and nor was the U-boat's 'wolfpack' tactic of attacking at night and on the surface. Attached to the hulls of British surface ships were the much-heralded ASDIC (Anti-Submarine Detection Investigation Committee) detection devices, which could locate a U-boat with a 'ping' from an echo. But ASDIC only worked if the U-boats were underwater.

ATLANTIC ATROCITY

The early success of the U-boat attacks gave Hitler a glimpse of what they might achieve. He relaxed the rules of engagement so that now his submarines

could attack any vessel that was using its wireless. What Hitler didn't do, however, was increase U-boat production – instead being persuaded by Hermann Göring, head of the Luftwaffe, to prioritise aircraft manufacture.

In August 1940 alone, 56 merchant ships were sunk by U-boats. But there was some good news for Churchill at the beginning of September, when he persuaded Roosevelt to sign the Destroyers for Bases Agreement, whereby the US transferred 50 of its old destroyers to Britain in exchange for land rights on British possessions. Now convoys would have better protection as they made the hazardous crossing. Or that was the theory.

On 13 September 1940, the SS *City of Benares* sailed from Liverpool, bound for Canada. Among the 407 crew and passengers were 90 children, whose parents wanted them out of harm's way

QUIET BUT DEADLY

The most successful U-boat skipper in terms of ships sunk was Otto Kretschmer, who despatched 47 vessels to the bottom of the sea during his 16 patrols – a total of 273,043 tons. Remarkably, Kretschmer was one of the few ‘aces’ to survive the war, a fact attributed to his capture on 19 March 1941, when he was forced to surface in *U-99* after being depth-charged by a British destroyer off Iceland. Described by his naval interrogator as “a quiet, deliberate man”, the chivalrous Kretschmer was fluent in English, having studied at Exeter University before the war. His success was due to his boldness: Kretschmer pioneered a new method of attack by firing at close range on the surface. As he told his crew, this was achieved “by penetrating the escort’s anti-submarine screen, at times getting inside the convoy lanes”. He died in 1998 aged 86.

Lifeboat No 12 only had enough water for a week. It was spotted on day eight

Five of the six child survivors from Benares’s lifeboat No 12. Fred Steels is in the centre



Kretschmer (*front*) was nicknamed ‘Silent Otto’ for his stealthy tactics

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest loss of life in shipping history occurred when a Soviet submarine sank the German MV *Wilhelm Gustloff* in 1945. Around 9,400 died – mostly civilians and refugees

remarked that the boys had “behaved splendidly”.

ANGER SWELLS

In all, 260 people drowned in the sinking of the *City of Benares*, including 77 of the 90 children. The incident caused worldwide outrage, but the government and the Admiralty knew it had to take some of the blame: it was evident that U-boats were operating further west than previously thought, and the ‘mid-Atlantic gap’ – the section of the ocean that was beyond the range of RAF Coastal Command aircraft – had to be closed. That meant increased protection for convoys from destroyers.

as the Luftwaffe intensified the Blitz. There were 20 vessels in total in the convoy, escorted by one destroyer and two armed sloops.

Four days out of England, the *City of Benares* was hit by a U-boat torpedo just as 11-year-old Fred Steels climbed into bed. As water rushed into the cabin, he rushed out. “When I got out of the cabin, there was a huge hole in the deck,” Steels later recalled. “A dirty great seaman grabbed me and another boy and threw us into a lifeboat.”

In the panic to abandon the rapidly sinking vessel, many passengers were thrown into the water beside poorly launched lifeboats. Steels was one of the lucky ones. His lifeboat, No 12, was in the capable hands of Fourth Officer Ronald Cooper, who had under his command 32 Indian crew, four British and six boys

with their two chaperones. “We were frightened, but we tried not to show it,” remembered Steels.

Most survivors were picked up within 12 hours, but lifeboat No 12 had drifted out of sight. When dawn broke, Cooper handed out sardines, biscuits and water to the occupants of the boat and led them in a series of songs. Soon, morale began to waver in the face of mountainous seas. “We went through three storms – great Atlantic gales,” said Steels.

After a week adrift on the Atlantic, there was no longer any singing, nor much in the way of food. Cold, wet and hungry, the survivors lay huddled in the boat. On day eight they were spotted by an RAF flying boat, and within hours Steels was on board a Royal Navy destroyer. In his report, Cooper

WAR ON THE WATER

As well as the Atlantic, two other watery theatres witnessed intense submarine battles during World War II. The first was in the Mediterranean, where a submarine campaign was waged from September 1941 to September 1944, inflicting a heavy toll on both German and British submarines. Of the 60 U-boats that entered the Med through the Strait of Gibraltar in 1941, only one returned, but they inflicted great damage on the Allied convoys endeavouring to supply the besieged island of Malta and British troops in North Africa.

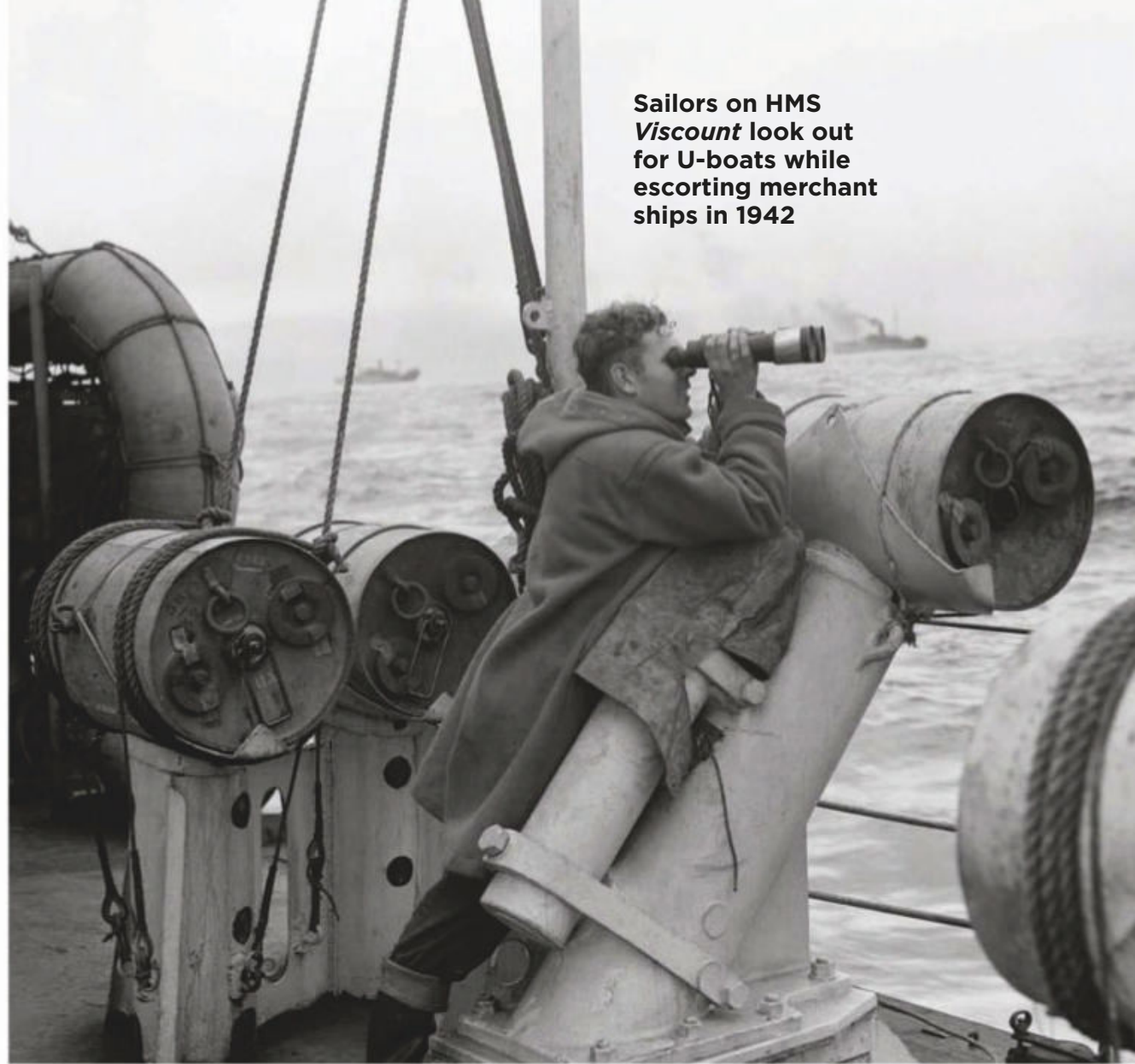
The Royal Navy's 10th Submarine Flotilla, based in Malta from 1941 onwards, was tasked with protecting the convoys the U-boats were attacking, as well as trying to disrupt Axis supplies to their own forces in North Africa.

US submarines achieved notable success in the Pacific as they sought to avenge the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Operating from that same Hawaiian base, as well as Fremantle and Brisbane in Australia, American submarines were in continual action until the surrender of Japan in August 1945.

Overall, US submarines sank 1,314 enemy ships in the Pacific, a total of 5.3 million tons of shipping, representing 55 per cent of Japan's maritime losses. The price, though, was heavy, and of the 16,000 American submariners who served, 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men were lost, along with 52 submarines. Nonetheless, this still represented the lowest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service in World War II. Arguably the most famous American ace was Richard O'Kane, who sank

33 enemy ships while in command of USS *Tang*. In addition, the *Tang* rescued numerous American aircrew who had bailed out into the ocean.

Richard O'Kane receives the Congressional Medal of Honor



Sailors on HMS *Viscount* look out for U-boats while escorting merchant ships in 1942

Nevertheless, the U-boats continued to take a heavy toll on the Atlantic convoys: 59 ships were sunk in September 1940 and 63 in October, which, combined with the 56 vessels lost in August, meant that in three months 700,000 tons of supplies had disappeared beneath the waves. The figures were even worse in early 1941, with nearly one million tons lost in February and March. Churchill knew such losses were unsustainable.

And then: a glimmer of hope for the Prime Minister. On 17 March 1941, *U-100* was sunk by the destroyer HMS *Vanoc*, which had been guided to its prey by a seaborne radar device, a first in the Battle of the Atlantic.

That wasn't the only weapon in the Admiralty's armoury. In the same month the *Vanoc* sunk *U-100*, a British destroyer seized an armed German

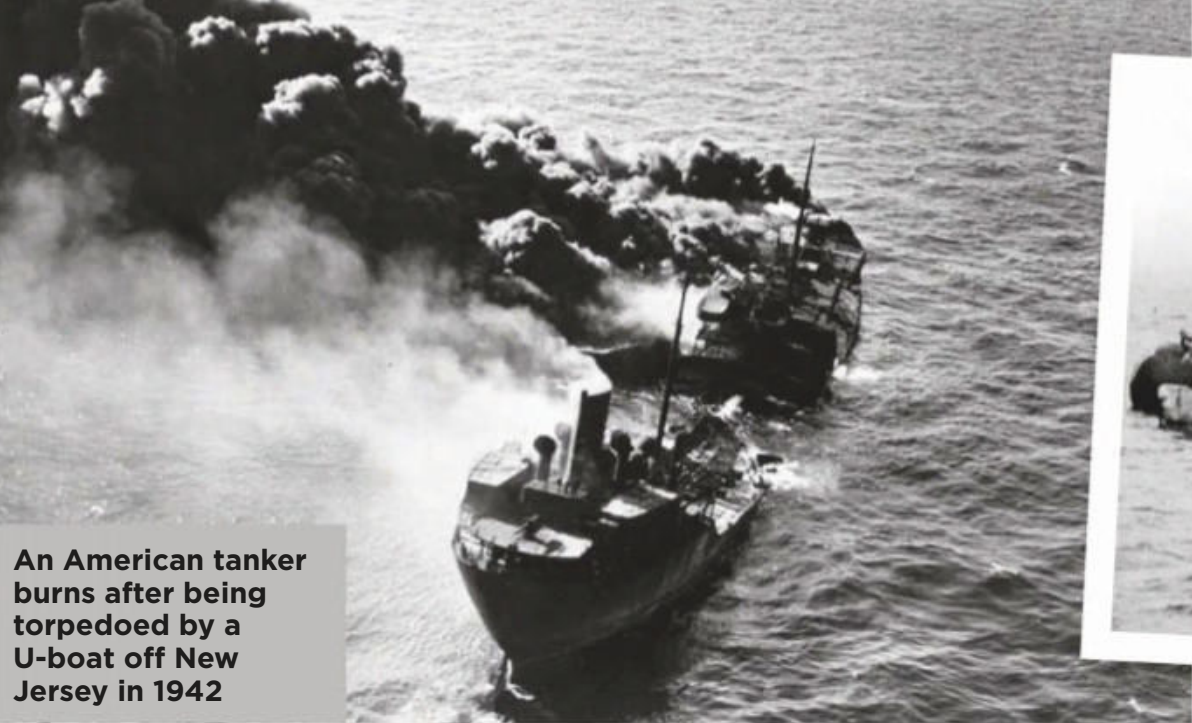
trawler close to the Norwegian Lofoten Islands. A search of the vessel unearthed documents containing codes. They were sent to Bletchley Park, a Victorian mansion in Buckinghamshire that housed a team of brilliant code-breakers.

SEA CHANGE


Among the documents found on the trawler was one that provided the settings for the typewriter-like German cipher machine Enigma. The previous year, a young mathematician called Alan Turing - benefiting from information provided by Polish code-breakers - had not only deduced how Enigma functioned, but also created what he called his 'bombe': a machine that deciphered the Enigma codes to reveal their contents.

The codes seized in Norway were used to decrypt several German naval

“A BRITISH DESTROYER SEIZED AN ARMED GERMAN TRAWLER CARRYING CODES. THEY WERE SENT TO BLETCHLEY PARK”



An American tanker burns after being torpedoed by a U-boat off New Jersey in 1942



X-craft were towed to their targets by full-size 'mother' submarines

TINY TERRORS

One weapon deployed by the Royal Navy in the Battle of the Atlantic was the X-craft – a vessel that was only 51 feet in length and crewed by just a commander, pilot, engineer and diver. In September 1943, two of these midget submarines attacked the battleship *Tirpitz*, the sister ship of the *Bismarck*, while it was at anchor at Kåfjord in northern Norway. The *Tirpitz*, which had been used to intercept Allied convoys transporting supplies to the Soviet Union, was badly damaged in the attack and put out of action for six months.

The skippers of the midget subs, Lieutenants Place and Cameron, were awarded the Victoria Cross, the citation describing how they “worked their small craft past the close anti-submarine and torpedo nets surrounding the *Tirpitz*, and from a position inside these nets, carried out a cool and determined attack”. X-craft later played an important role in D-Day, guiding the main invasion fleet accurately to the beaches.



ABOVE: Alan Turing's 'bombe' device at Bletchley Park

RIGHT: The Enigma machine was said to be unbreakable

DID YOU KNOW?

The work of Bletchley Park genius Alan Turing and his team is thought to have saved 14 million lives. After prosecution for homosexual acts, however, Turing committed suicide in 1954 aged 41.

messages, and a few weeks later Britain got lucky again, at the same time that Lieutenant Fritz-Julius Lemp's fortune ran out: in May 1941, Lemp drowned when the submarine he was commanding, *U-110*, was attacked and forced to the surface of the Atlantic 300 miles west of Ireland.

On board was found an intact Enigma machine, the first to fall into British hands. The discovery wasn't as significant as the Admiralty had hoped, though, and for the most part Ultra – the code-word for the Bletchley Park intelligence – furnished the Navy with limited advantages during the long years of the Battle of the Atlantic. In January 1942, a fourth 'rotor' was

installed in the German naval Enigma, and it took the brains at Bletchley Park 10 months to crack the new codes. In addition, Germany's own naval intelligence, B-Dienst, was skilled in decrypting Royal Naval messages, so in effect the two departments cancelled each other out.

Convoys were forced to zig-zag their way across the Atlantic to confuse U-boat commanders

Three and a half years after the Battle of the Atlantic had begun, the conflict was nearing its climax. The winter of 1943 was especially brutal for the Merchant Navy, both on account of the weather and U-boat activity. A total of 38 vessels were sunk in January and 63 in February 1943, but in March the tally reached crisis point for the Allies.

That month, three U-boat wolf packs ambushed two convoys, SC122 and HX229, as they crossed the Atlantic, sending 141,000 tons of shipping and more than 300 merchant seamen to the ocean bed. As the Admiralty reflected a few months later, “the Germans never came so near



**"OF THE 38,000 MEN WHO
SERVED IN THE U-BOATS, ONLY
8,000 SURVIVED. IT WAS THE
HIGHEST CASUALTY RATE OF ANY
SERVICE IN THE WAR"**

A US anti-sub
patrol craft fires
a depth charge
- a bomb that
detonates at a
set depth

DID YOU KNOW?

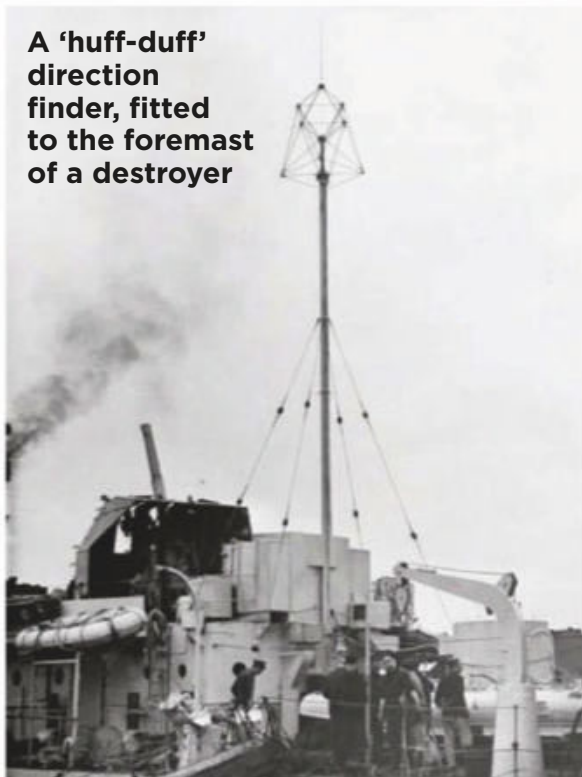
German U-boat crews
referred to the Battle of the
Atlantic's early phase -
before the Allies developed
adequate defence
capabilities - as *die
glückliche Zeit*: 'the
happy time'.

U-boats had
to surface
often and from
1943 were
increasingly
picked off from
the air

A seaman
keeps a record
of U-boat
sinkings
on HMS
Hesperus's
wheelhouse

By 1944, the life expectancy of a U-boat at sea was down to only eight weeks

A 'huff-duff' direction finder, fitted to the foremast of a destroyer




Not only did the Allies have groundbreaking technology at their disposal, but Britain's war cabinet had belatedly recognised the importance of aircraft support for convoys. In March 1943, it allocated 39 VLR (Very Long Range) Liberators to Coastal Command, with dozens more to follow. Dönitz could only look on in envy, deprived of similar aerial resources.

The consequences were to quickly prove catastrophic for his fleet of U-boats. On 1 May, two convoys, HX237 and SC129, sailed from New York for Liverpool. Forty U-boats were sent to sink the 72 freighters, stacked with supplies for Britain, but managed to destroy only five; in the deadly game of marine cat and mouse, the convoy's escort located and sank the same number of U-boats.

THE TIDE TURNS

In total, 56 U-boats were sunk in April and May 1943, and among the hundreds drowned was Dönitz's own son, Peter, killed on his first patrol.

The Battle of the Atlantic would continue, but with the technology and aircraft resources now at the Allies' disposal, the outcome was guaranteed. So, too, was Britain's vital supply line to North America. The cost to both sides was enormous, as was the courage of sailors and submariners, whose grave was the grey, pitiless Atlantic. Of the 38,000 men who served in the U-boats, only 8,000 survived the war; no other branch of any service in any nation that participated in the war suffered such a casualty rate. One of the very few commanders to survive was Peter-Erich Cremer, who returned to Germany desolate. "Most of my comrades were no longer alive; the years of my youth had gone," he reflected. "All around me was emptiness." 

GET HOOKED

READ

The Battle of the Atlantic by Jonathan Dimbleby (Penguin 2015) and *Iron Coffins: A U-boat Commander's War, 1939-45* by Herbert Werner (W&N 2006)

THE FOURTH SERVICE

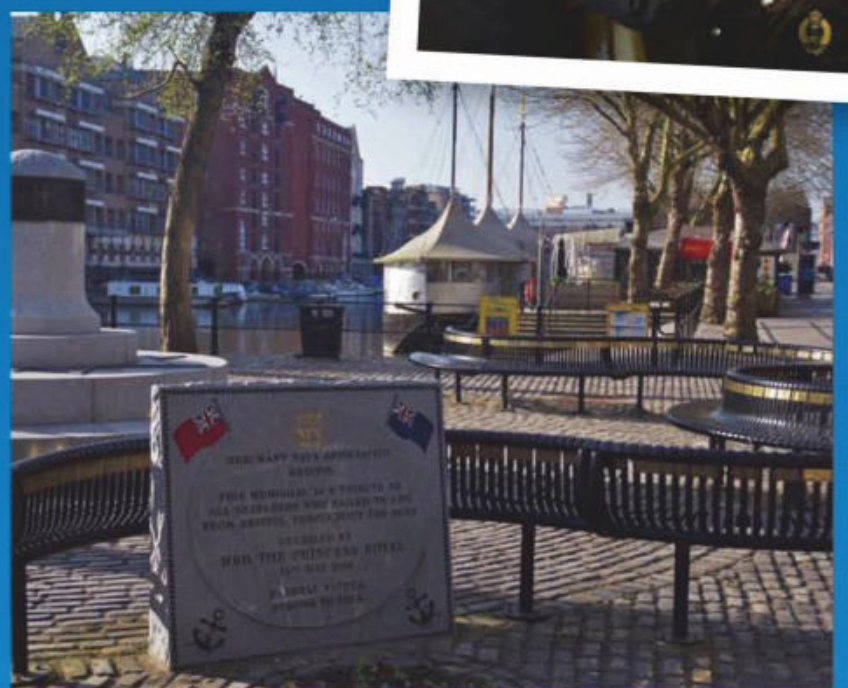
The Merchant Navy Memorial on Welsh Back, Bristol, was unveiled by the Princess Royal in May 2001, a worthy tribute to the 32,000 merchant seaman who lost their lives during World War II. Regrettably, however, the Merchant Navy, known as the 'fourth service', had to wait until 2000 before its veterans were permitted to march as an official body in the Cenotaph commemorations.

In all, about 185,000 seaman flew the 'Red Duster' – the Merchant Navy ensign – during the war, performing a vital role around the world, while the force proportionally lost more men than any of the other three services. It had been taken over by the Admiralty in August 1939, and on the first day of the war, 3 September, suffered its first losses when 18 of its seaman went down with the *SS Athenia* when it was torpedoed in the Atlantic en route to Canada. U-boats were the fear that haunted every merchant seaman. "Every second of every minute of every day, you could have had a torpedo in you," recalled one veteran, Ronald Quested, in a 2015 interview. "Nobody could tell you how many U-boats were around."

German U-boats weren't the only enemy, however, and in December 1941 the service had 98 vessels sunk by the Japanese navy in the South China Sea. On every ocean and sea during the war the merchant navy sailed, transporting vital supplies for the Allied effort on ships crewed by men from Britain, Ireland, Australia, India, South Africa, Canada, China, Africa and the Caribbean. Conditions were often atrocious, and the spectre of death was never far away. "I was attacked by mines, U-boats, bombers," recalls Donald Hunter, a veteran of the Battle of the Atlantic. "We had the bloody lot."

RIGHT: Prince Philip admires Hunter's medals at an event marking the 70th anniversary of VE Day

BELOW: The Merchant Navy memorial in Bristol. WWII merchant seamen losses were enormous



An ordinary man in extraordinary times

From the Great Fire of London to his own flames of desire, Samuel Pepys' diary is a fascinating insight into 17th-century life, says **Emma Slattery Williams**

Born in 1633 in modest circumstances, Samuel Pepys wasn't destined to be famous. He wasn't a member of the aristocracy and didn't have any innovative ideas that would propel him into the history books. What he did have was a skill with a quill and the forethought to capture everything that happened around him. From 1660 to 1669 he kept a diary, which has survived. By happy coincidence, the timing of it coincided with some of the most transformative events in London and England's history. Pepys gives us a peek into the heart of the action, as well as a glimpse into everyday life. He probably never intended his writing to be read, let alone studied, hundreds of years later.

A HUMBLE BEGINNING

Much of what is known of the past comes from the chronicles of state and royalty, but the lives of ordinary people are less known. This is where Pepys comes in. His is a classic rags to riches story of a man who rose through the ranks to become an advisor to kings. As well as showing the effect the Great Fire of London had on citizens and the relief felt during the Restoration of the monarchy, he documented how working people spent their time. Pepys' diary demonstrates that the middle classes of London during the late 17th century had similar priorities and pastimes to those of today – they visited coffee houses, had domestic arguments, gossiped about the royal court and worried about their health.

Pepys came from an unremarkable London family. His father was a tailor and his mother the daughter of a butcher. He was one of 11 children, though, as was common then, most didn't reach adulthood. He was sent to Huntingdon Grammar School in 1642 – the year Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, beginning the British Civil Wars – but would later return to London. At 15, Pepys sneaked away from his studies to watch the execution of Charles I. He would witness the full cycle of this story; growing up through the turmoil of the Civil Wars, he would eventually play a role in the continuation of Charles's dynasty.

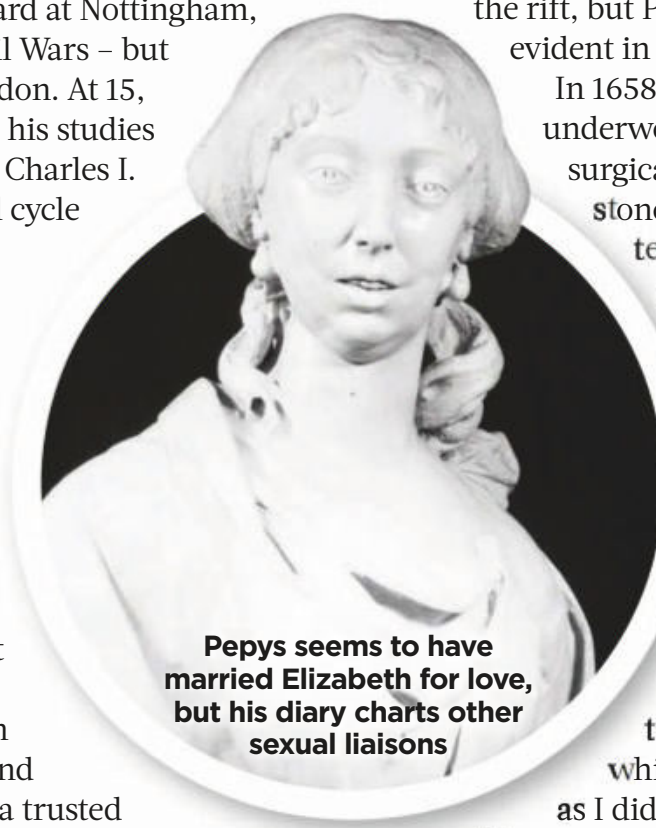
Pepys' political career began after he graduated from the University of Cambridge, where distant relatives were patrons. He was given a position in the household of his second cousin Edward Montagu, a trusted lieutenant of Oliver Cromwell. He was moving up in the world, but this didn't prevent him from following his heart. In the 17th century, marriages were often entered into for financial gain or social advancement rather than romance. Pepys married Elizabeth de St Michel in 1655 – we can assume this was a

love match as she was a descendant of French Huguenots, which wouldn't have been viewed as an advantageous marriage. It was a stormy relationship with fiery tempers on both sides – indeed for a few months, Elizabeth moved out of their apartment. We don't know what caused the rift, but Pepys' wandering eye is evident in later years.

In 1658, at the age of 26, Pepys underwent a lithotomy – the surgical removal of a kidney stone. This would have been a terrifying ordeal, as there would have been no anaesthetic and the procedure was often fatal. He kept his stone as a keepsake and would hold a celebration every year to commemorate his survival: "This day it is two years since it pleased God that I was cut of the stone ... And did resolve while I live to keep it a festival, as I did the last year at my house".

It's possible the procedure rendered him sterile, though not impotent.

His first diary entry, on 1 January 1660, introduces him living in Whitehall with his wife and gives us an intimate view into their marriage. He had reason to hope that his wife was pregnant and then suggests disappointment >



Pepys seems to have married Elizabeth for love, but his diary charts other sexual liaisons



DID YOU KNOW?
 Samuel Pepys was one of the first people to mention the drinking of tea in Britain, in 1660: "And afterwards I did send for a cup of tee (a China drink) of which I never had drank before."



The diary of Samuel Pepys (*inset*) spans a particularly turbulent decade, during which the monarchy was restored with Charles II [1], the Great Plague swept across London [2], the British Navy suffered one of its most woeful defeats on the Medway [3], and the Great Fire of 1666 exacted a deadly toll [4]

when he discovers she is not. The couple would remain childless. He was a teller for the Exchequer at the time, but life was about to take an unexpected turn.

MEETING THE NEW KING

Pepys' second cousin Edward Montagu had a new opportunity for him, one that took him into the heart of English politics. Originally a staunch supporter of Cromwell, Montagu astutely allied himself with those wishing to restore the monarchy after Cromwell's death in 1658. A power vacuum had opened, leaving the country terrified as to who would seize power. The return of monarchy was seen as the safest option and Montagu was charged with waiting at sea while parliament voted, before collecting the exiled Charles Stuart from Holland. Pepys accompanied Montagu as his secretary, spending some days in The Hague and writing anecdotes about his time. One night he drank so much he overslept, believing the sunrise to be sunset, and later, when firing a gun in celebration, failed to get his head out of the way and "almost spoiled my right eye".

A message reached Charles on 8 May 1660, inviting him to return to England as king, and the ship carrying Montagu and Pepys sailed to meet him. Pepys listened in awe while the soon-to-be

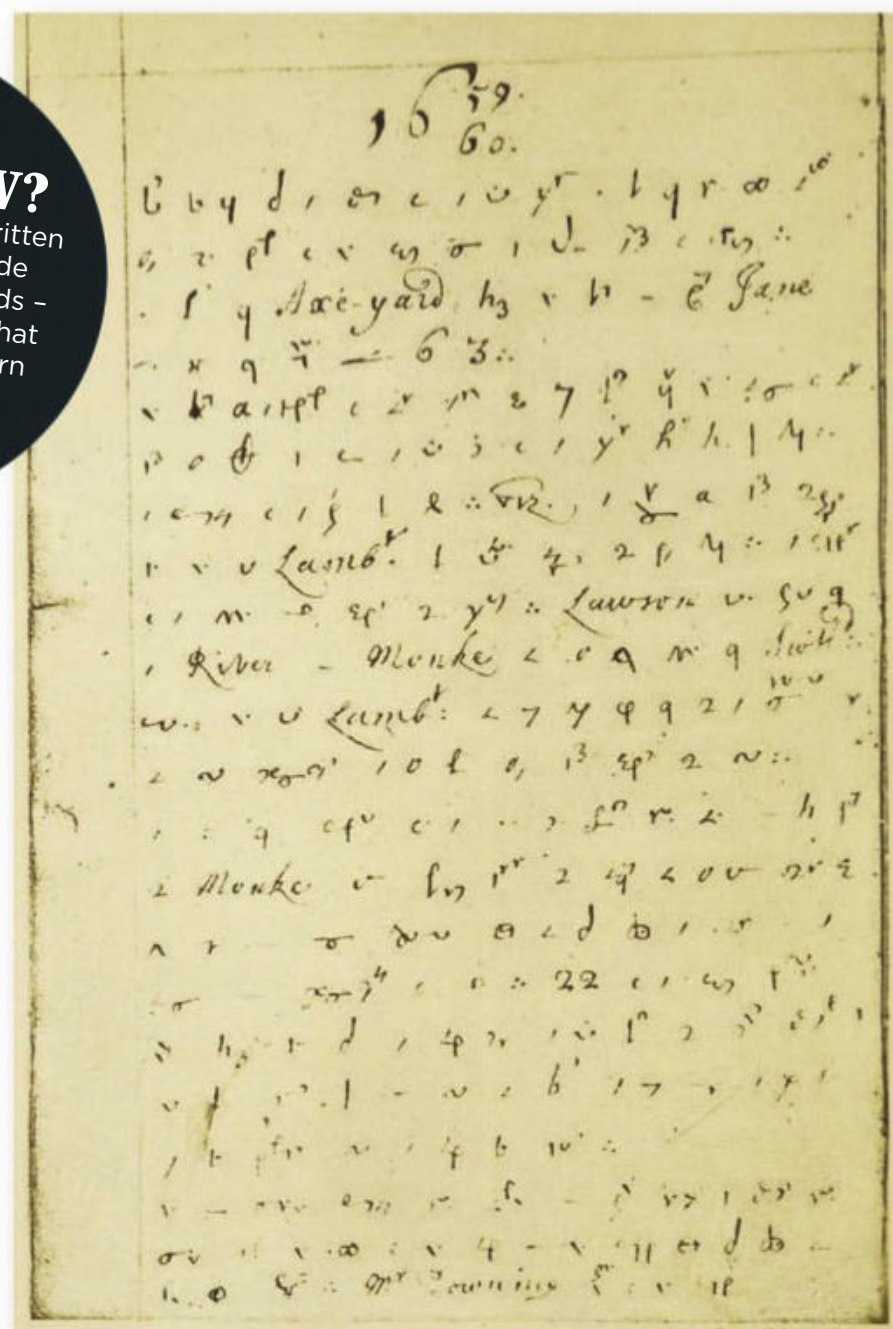
Charles II told tales of his escape from England years before: "All the afternoon the King walked here and there, up and down (quite contrary to what I thought him to have been), very active and stirring. Upon the quarterdeck he fell into discourse of his escape from Worcester, where it made me ready to weep to hear the stories that he told of his difficulties that he had passed through."

On 25 May 1660, Charles landed in Dover after more than eight years in exile, with Pepys one of his companions onboard the ship. The King's coronation the following year was the source of much joy after the tyrannical reign of the Puritans, with Pepys calling the spectacle "glorious".

When Montagu was made Earl of Sandwich by Charles II, he rewarded Pepys with a role at the Navy Board. This came with an appealing salary and a home at the Navy Office in Seething Lane. He was an efficient member of the Board, and the position allowed him to mix in prestigious circles and earn

DID YOU KNOW?

Much of the diary is written in shorthand or a code of various foreign words - this was probably so that his wife would not learn about his multiple sexual indiscretions



The first page of Pepys' diary, started on 1 January 1660. He continued until 31 May 1669, when his eyesight failed him



EVERYDAY LIFE IN 17TH-CENTURY LONDON

Take a walk around 17th-century London and much of it would be alien to a modern-day visitor - the Great Fire played a big part in this as did bombing during WWII. The activities of its inhabitants, however, would be familiar. Just as streets today are littered with cafés, coffee shops had become a popular place for men to discuss business and politics while sampling the latest hot beverage. The first coffee shop in London had opened in 1652 and rapidly they began springing up all over the place. In 1663, Pepys commented on how he was beginning to enjoy coffee a bit too much: "Thence homewards, and meeting Sir W Batten, turned back

again to a coffee-house, and there drunk more till I was almost sick".

Taverns were ever popular as beer and other alcoholic drinks were considered safer to drink than potentially contaminated water: even children would drink a low-strength brew known as small beer. Visiting the theatre was another popular pursuit. Pepys was such a fan of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* that he watched it many times. He holds the distinction of being the first in Britain to record watching a Punch and Judy show, in Covent Garden in 1662. Bear-baiting and cockfighting, previously banned under Cromwell, were reintroduced at the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660. Although cockfighting wasn't to his taste, Pepys remarked on how people from all levels of society seemed to enjoy the brutal entertainment.

ABOVE: King Charles I at a cockfight

BELOW: The Grand Café, Oxford. On this site, says Pepys, was England's first coffee house, just preceding those in London



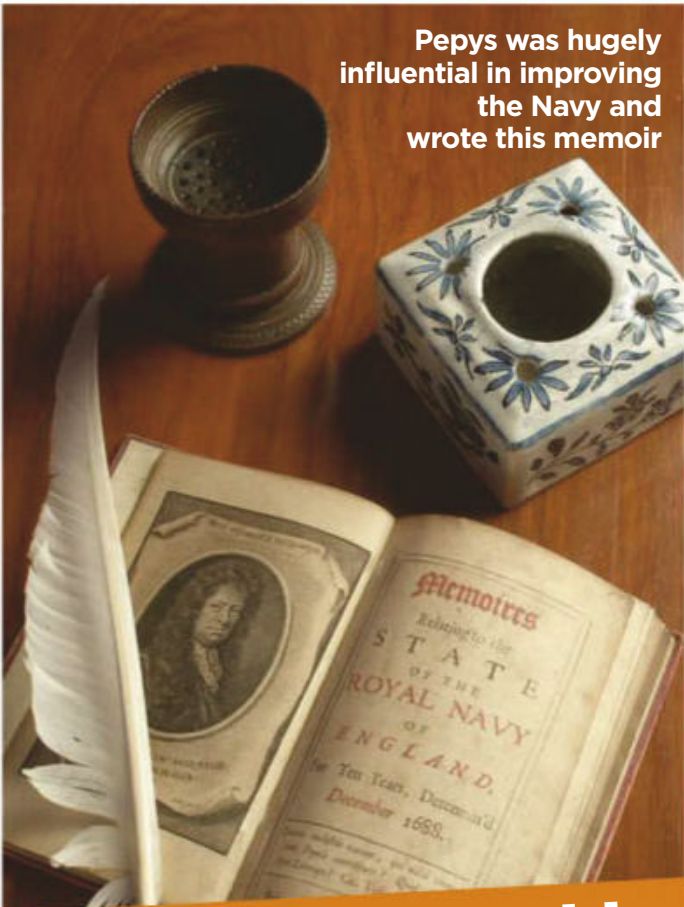
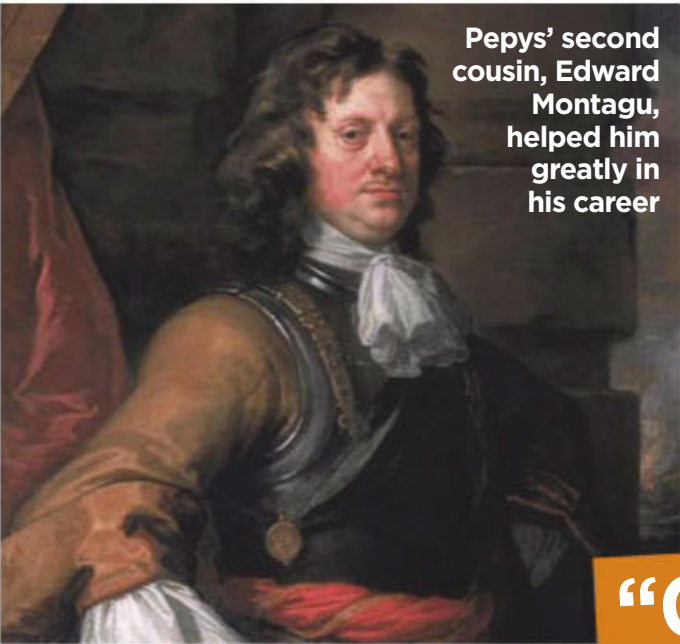
more prominent positions – such as Justice of the Peace, in September 1660. He later became involved with the administration of the English colony of Tangier, becoming treasurer in 1665.

WORDS OF WISDOM?

For readers of his diary, one of his most evident faults is his inability to remain faithful to his wife. Pepys embarks on many affairs, even striking up a relationship with his wife’s companion. Some of these are described quite graphically, leading to the diary’s censorship until an unedited version was published in the 1970s. Pepys was hypocritical, as he was quick to condemn the scandals and debauchery of the court yet continued his own adulterous exploits. In 1667, he recorded a conversation with a friend about the royal court: “He tells me that the King and Court were never in the world so bad as they are now for gaming, swearing, whoring, and drinking, and the most abominable vices that ever were in the world”.

Pepys lived in the heart of London during the plague that swept the city in 1665 and 1666, sending his wife to Woolwich when it became clear the disease wasn’t abating: “I did in Drury Lane see two or three houses marked with a

red cross upon the doors, and ‘Lord have mercy upon us’ writ there – which was a sad sight to me, being the first of that kind that to my remembrance I ever saw”. He was distressed at the number of graves that appeared but also displayed his self-interested: he was a lover of wigs and was concerned about the effect the plague was having: “And it is a wonder what will be the fashion after the plague is done as to periwigs, for nobody will dare to buy any haire for fear of the infection – that it had been cut off the heads of people dead of the plague”. His words give a clear sense of the devastation felt across the city – everyone knew of someone affected: “How empty the streets are, and melancholy, so many poor sick people in the streets, full of sores, and so many sad stories overheard



“Charles II landed in Dover after exile, with Pepys one of his companions”

The future Charles II's triumphant return to England, in which Montagu and Pepys played a role



THE 1660S: PEPYS' DIARY DECADE

1 JANUARY 1660
Pepys makes his first diary entry

29 MAY 1660
Charles II enters London in triumph after his years of exile

30 JANUARY 1661
Cromwell's body is exhumed for a posthumous execution

23 APRIL 1661
Charles II is crowned at Westminster Abbey

4 MARCH 1665
The Second Anglo-Dutch War, fought over sea trade routes, is declared

APRIL 1665
The Great Plague begins to claim lives across London

2-6 SEPTEMBER 1666
The Great Fire, a social and economic disaster, sweeps through London

31 JULY 1667
The Second Anglo-Dutch war ends

31 MAY 1669
Pepys writes his last diary entry

The Great Fire is thought to have destroyed more than 13,000 homes and nearly 90 parish churches



THE DEADLY YEARS

During 1665 and 1666, England suffered its last major plague, which claimed the lives of an estimated 100,000 Londoners – approximately one-fifth of the city's population. The country hadn't seen such devastation since the Black Death in the 14th century. Although suspicious deaths had occurred in the winter of 1664, it wasn't until the following spring that London authorities began to investigate.

Thousands of people fled the city in fear, though the poorest had nowhere to go. More devastation was to come. On the night of 2 September 1666, a fire began in a bakery on Pudding Lane that would destroy much of the wooden city over the next four days. More than 13,000 houses were destroyed as well as the old St Paul's Cathedral, which had stood since the 14th century. The number of deaths is unknown. It would take years for the city to be rebuilt, but it did allow a modern metropolis to emerge from the disease-ridden and crowded medieval capital.

When Pepys retired from public life, he moved to Clapham where he lived until his death in 1703 at the age of 70. He is buried next to his wife in St Olave's Church in London where a bust of him can be seen. During the remaining years of his life, he would have witnessed the exclusion crisis (which sought to exclude the King's brother James from the throne because he was Catholic) and the 'Glorious Revolution', but sadly did not document them.

Without Pepys, we wouldn't have detailed accounts of the terror felt during the plague and fire, or of the relief and joy at the Restoration, or descriptions of life in 17th-century London through the eyes of one who was there. His diary is an ordinary man's guide through an extraordinary century in London. 🎯

   **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Pepys' diary is a wonderful snapshot of daily life. What other historical accounts have you enjoyed?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



ABOVE: A stone in Seething Lane commemorates Pepys' hidden cheese

RIGHT: St Olave's Church, where Pepys is buried



“Pepys is famous for describing the fire of London in 1666”

as I walk, everybody talking of this dead, and that man sick”.

As if the plague hadn't brought enough suffering, more was to come. Pepys is famous for describing the Great Fire of London in 1666. He recorded a scene of chaos as people struggled to save belongings, with little effort made to douse the blaze.

Pepys, who now moved in the inner circles of court, personally informed Charles II of the fire's progress: “Jane comes and tells me that she hears that above 300 houses have been burned down tonight by the fire we saw, and that it was now burning down all Fish Street by London Bridge... Everybody endeavouring to remove their goods, and flinging into the river or bringing them into lighters that lay off. Poor people staying in their houses as long as till the very fire touched them... so I was called for and did tell the King and Duke of York what I saw, and that unless his Majesty did command houses to be pulled down, nothing could stop the fire.” One of his memorable stories from the fire was his burial of a huge parmesan cheese

(which could be worth a small fortune, as it was often used as a diplomatic gift) in the garden.

Pepys stopped writing his diary on 31 May 1669 due to failing eyesight – he often wrote in candlelight and believed this was the cause. Six months later, Elizabeth died after suffering typhoid fever, and although he continued his dalliances, he never remarried.

Continuing to climb the political ladder, Pepys became an MP and wrote journals documenting his time in Tangier as England prepared to leave the colony. During 1676–77, he introduced many improvements to the Navy while Secretary to the Admiralty. He clearly impressed as, in 1684, Charles II created a new role for him, Secretary for the Affairs of the Admiralty of England.



Photo Juvenile Jazz Bands, 1979. Tish Murtha © Ella Murtha. All rights reserved. DACS / Artimage 2018.

HENRY or Harry England V

Join us in the Globe Theatre this summer as we explore the past, present and future of our 'scepter'd isle' with *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*, and *Henry V*. Watch all three plays throughout the summer, or on a special Trilogy Day when you can see all three back-to-back.

Writer

William Shakespeare

Presented by

The Globe Ensemble

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SHAKESPEARE'S
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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



DID YOU KNOW?

WAT A FIND

Henri Mouhot contracted malaria and died while exploring the jungles of Laos in 1861. The detailed observations and drawings he had made of Angkor Wat were saved and published a couple of years later, making the temple known in Europe.



ALAMY XI, GETTY IMAGES XI

WHEN WAS ANGKOR WAT DISCOVERED?

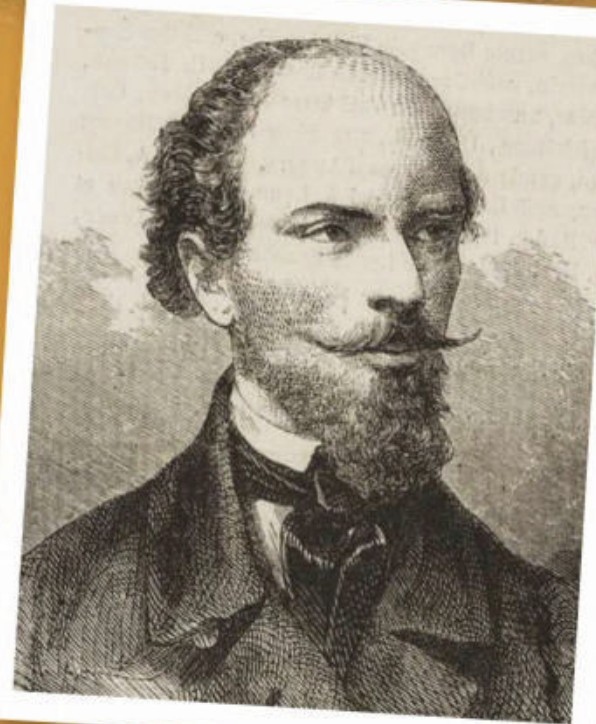


No one really discovered Angkor Wat as the temple complex was never 'lost'. The religious monument/city, covering around 400 acres, was built over three decades in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II of the Khmer Empire. He intended it to be his funerary temple and the new capital, dedicating it to the Hindu deity Vishnu.

Angkor Wat became the pride of the empire, with its five central towers representing the peaks of Mount Meru, dwelling place of the gods. And even when it was sacked, turned into a Buddhist centre

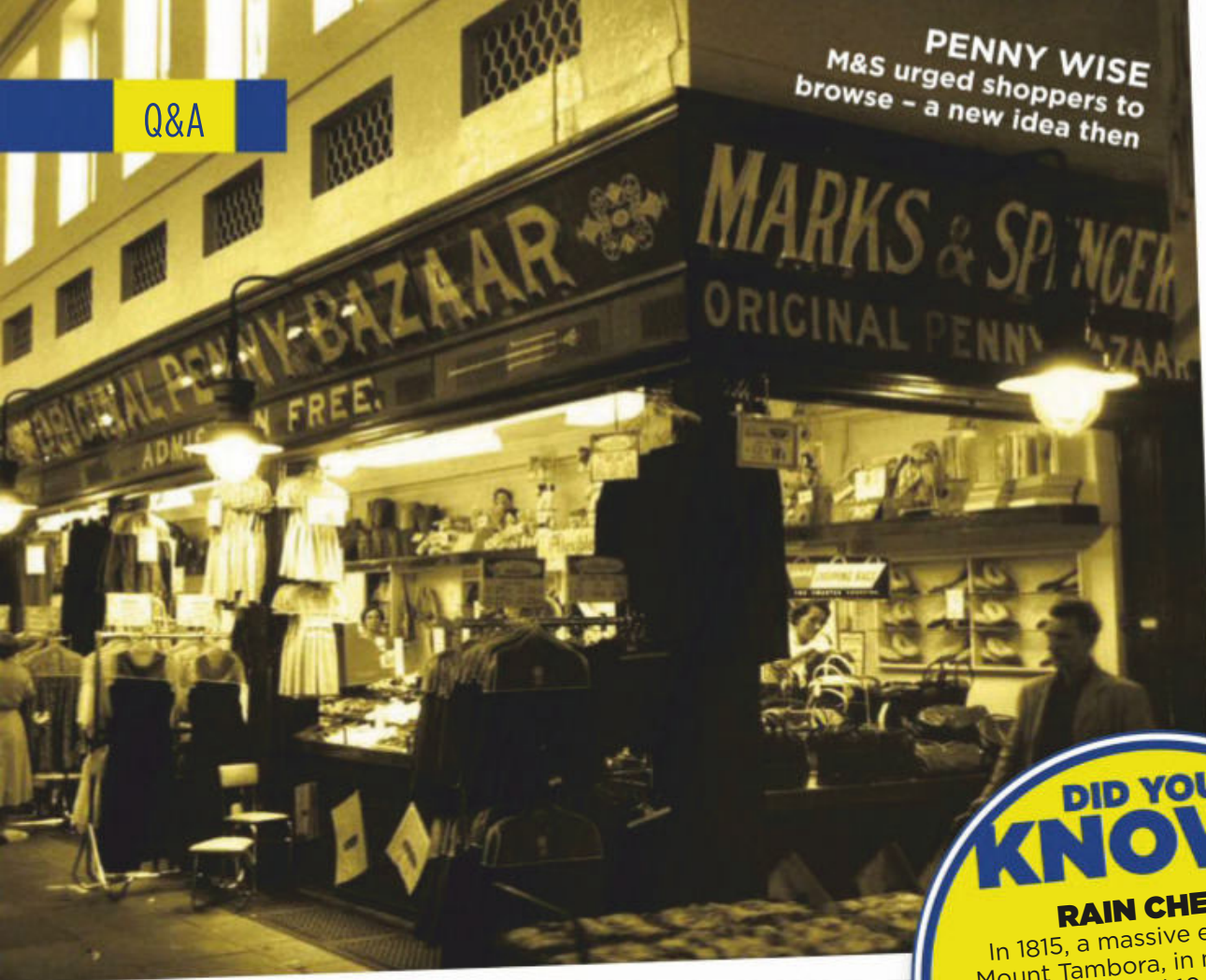
of worship and largely abandoned over the centuries, the complex remained populated.

Yet Henri Mouhot is still mistakenly put forward as the 'discoverer' of Angkor Wat. During an expedition from 1859-60, the French naturalist made a visit to the temple, which he described as a "rival to that of Solomon and erected by some ancient Michelangelo". He was far from the first European to see Angkor Wat – that is thought to have been a Portuguese friar in 1586 – but his writings, published posthumously, brought it unprecedented attention.



COMPLEX EMOTIONS

Henri Mouhot called Angkor Wat "grandeur than anything left by Greece or Rome"



DID YOU KNOW?

RAIN CHECK

In 1815, a massive eruption of Mount Tambora, in modern-day Indonesia, killed 10,000 people and caused electrified ash to affect cloud formation thousands of miles away in Europe. It may have led to heavy rain that decisively hampered Napoleon's army at Waterloo.

When did Marks meet Spencer?

Marks and Spencer – or M&S, or Marks and Sparks – is such a well-established name on UK high streets, but the retailer easily could have been called Marks and Dewhirst.

When a Polish Jew named Michael Marks moved to the north of England in the late 19th century, he had little English and even less money. He began working as a pedlar and soon had a market stall in Leeds. Marks became so successful thanks to his low prices – “Don’t ask the price, it’s a penny” was the slogan – that he decided

he needed a partner for his growing business.

He approached Isaac Dewhirst, a supplier who had helped fund Marks in the early days with £5, but he declined and pointed instead to one of his cashiers, a Yorkshireman called Tom Spencer. Marks had the salesmanship, Spencer had the financial acumen – and on 28 September 1894, Marks and Spencer was born. The duo’s penny bazaars proved a big hit. Wouldn’t it be nice to go to M&S today and still buy everything for a penny?

WHAT WERE ROMMEL’S ASPARAGUS?

Nothing you’d want to eat. Erwin Rommel, the man in charge of improving the Nazis’ Fortress Europe, was rightly concerned about Allied air power. To make it harder for gliders and paratroopers to land, he had more than a million poles, up to four metres tall, dotted in fields and meadows. These Rommelspargel (or ‘Rommel’s asparagus’) would be sharpened or topped with a mine, and were connected with tripwires. But when the invasion came, on D-Day, they didn’t have much effect. Landing a glider full of troops or equipment was dangerous enough anyway – so much so that they were dubbed “flying coffins”.



STEMMING THE TIDE

More than a million poles couldn’t stop the Allied invasion – the casualties they caused were inconsequential



PAW DEVILS
Gamblers often carry rabbits' feet for luck

When did a rabbit's foot become lucky?

Let’s hop right to it. The rabbit’s foot has been seen in cultures around the world as a token of fortune, an anti-witchcraft amulet or a fertility booster – since rabbits breed like... well, rabbits. The Celts thought our long-eared friends – in their entirety – brought good luck, as they lived underground so could communicate with spirits in the underworld.

The beliefs morphed over the centuries. When picked up in North America around the 19th century, it had been influenced by hoodoo – black American folk spirituality – and came with a load of rules. For the best luck, the foot had to come from the left hind leg, and the rabbit had to be killed in a cemetery under a full moon.



HOW OLD IS THE HAKA?

Target Intimidating opposing rugby sides while getting the Kiwis themselves properly riled up, the haka of the New Zealand All Blacks is one of the great spectacles in sport.

It is a posture dance, intended to get every part of the body moving and stretching, and was long ago used by Maori warriors on the battlefield. They wanted to show they were physically ready for anything. But there were many types of dance, which could be performed by both men and women on different occasions, including those for a warm welcome and a respectful goodbye at a funeral.

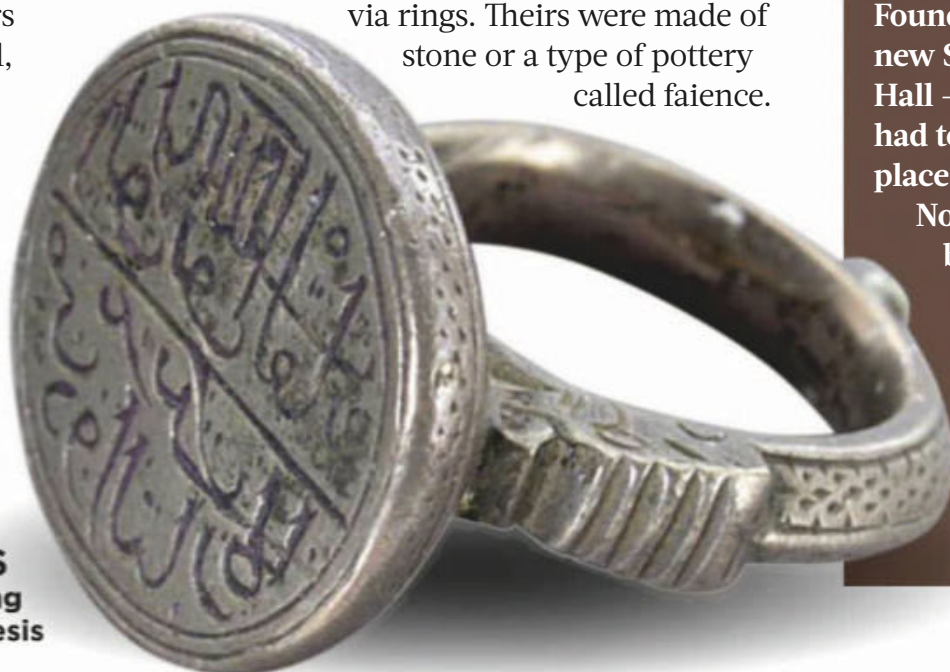
The haka has its origins in Maori mythology. The sun god Tama-nui-te-ra and one of his wives, Hine-raumati, had a son, Tane-rore, who would dance for his mother. Maoris said this created the shimmering effect of a hot day.

But the version most used by the All Blacks, *Ka Mate Ka Mate*, was created around 1820 by a Maori chief, although they have another, *Kapa o Pango*, which was composed in the 21st century just for them.

WHY DO MEN WEAR SIGNET RINGS?

Target They are growing in popularity again – among both men and women this time – although you won't find many wearers using them for their original, practical purpose. A signet ring featured the owner's emblem or family crest in reverse, so that when dipped in wax or clay they sealed and effectively signed a document with the unique image. Such an idea was used on carved cylinders as far back as ancient

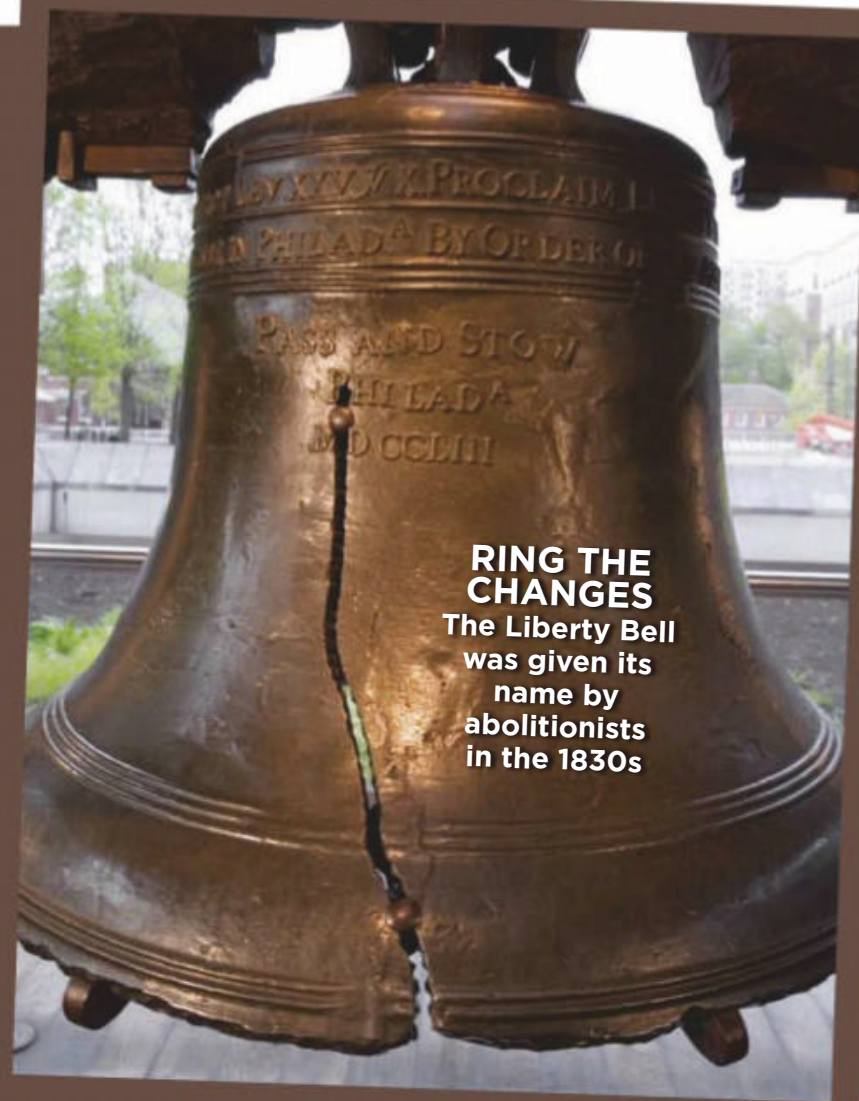
Mesopotamia in c3000 BC. But it was the Egyptian pharaohs who decided to keep their signatures on their person via rings. Theirs were made of stone or a type of pottery called faience.



SIGN OF THE TIMES
A pharaoh's signet ring is mentioned in Genesis

27

The number of murders confessed to by American serial killer HH Holmes before his execution in 1896. Only nine have been confirmed.



RING THE CHANGES
The Liberty Bell was given its name by abolitionists in the 1830s

WHEN DID THE LIBERTY BELL CRACK?

Target Alongside the Declaration of Independence, Mount Rushmore and bald eagles, a lone bell remains a powerful symbol of American

freedom, despite being so badly broken it is now unusable. Another irony is that, though the Liberty Bell has come to represent the US fight for independence from the British, it was made in London.

In 1751, the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania commissioned the bell from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry (later of Big Ben fame). It was to hang in the new State House – what would become Independence Hall – but cracked during a test of the clapper. The bell had to be recast, twice, before finally being put into place in 1753, weighing a hefty 943kg.

No one recorded when the first crack occurred, but the bell got its fatal fissure on 23 February 1846, while tolling in celebration of George Washington's birthday. In fact, the instantly clear crack seen on the Liberty Bell is not the one that took it out of commission. That's actually the repair job – an attempt to stop the metal rubbing. The real crack is a much less visible hairline running from the top.



WINGS CLIPPED
The Red Baron died from a shot to the chest – but not before flying into German folklore

Who shot down the **Red Baron**?

 No World War I flying ace was as ace as Manfred von Richthofen. The Red Baron totted up an official 80 air combat victories and was a hero in Germany before, on 21 April 1918, joining the ranks of the fallen.


He entered the fray in the skies near Vaux-sur-Somme after a Royal Air Force Sopwith Camel fired on his cousin Wolfram. The Red Baron gave pursuit, deep behind enemy lines and at low altitude. This uncharacteristically risky, impatient approach may have been a result of a life-threatening head wound sustained the previous year, which had led to headaches and nausea.

His distinctive red Fokker Dr.I triplane made too tempting a target and a lucky shot hit the Red Baron in the chest. In his final moments, he made a crash landing – and did it so well that more

damage was done to his plane by the ensuing souvenir hunters. Who fired the single .303 bullet that killed the 25-year-old ace is where the story gets murky.

The RAF quickly gave the official credit to one of its pilots, Captain Arthur Roy Brown, as the Canadian had been on the Red Baron's tail at the time. But the angle of the wound suggests the shot came from the ground, taken by an Australian anti-aircraft gunner. If so, Sergeant Cedric Popkin probably fired the bullet that brought down the red scourge of the skies.

DID VIKING SHIELD-MAIDENS REALLY EXIST?

 Apologies to fans of the hit series *Vikings*: historians just can't agree on whether Norse warrior women like Lagertha actually existed. While there are stories of shield-maidens, or *skjaldmaer*, in historical accounts, nearly all can be dismissed as unreliable, apocryphal, allegorical or more myth than reality. Take Hervor, the heroine who went on a quest to retrieve her father's magic sword, Tyrting.

Still, tantalising clues and mysterious finds – including artefacts showing women carrying swords, spears and shields – have boosted the idea that Viking women went into battle alongside men. In the 12th century, the Danish historian Saxo Grammaticus wrote of women in Denmark who sought

“so zealously to be skilled in warfare that they might have been thought to have unsexed themselves”.

In 2017, meanwhile, archaeologists discovered that a 10th-century grave of a warrior, filled with weapons, actually belonged to a woman. Was she a shield-maiden?


GENDER WARFARE
Lagertha was the legendary wife of the Norse hero Ragnar Lodbrok



MOZZA-ROLLER
Brit Chris Anderson has won the race 22 times



Why is **cheese rolling** a thing?

 It's a grate spectacle; you've got to see it to brie-lieve it; cheese rolling has it all: the gouda, the bad and the ugly. Right, that's enough cheese puns – we'd feta get on with explaining this strangest of pastimes.

Every spring, the small Gloucestershire village of Brockworth hosts the world-famous race, which sees competitors hurtle down the scarily steep slope of Cooper's Hill as they chase a nine-pound (4kg) round of Double Gloucester. The first to the bottom wins and takes home the cheese. Injuries and hospitalisation come hand in hand with the event, as anyone who has seen a video of the runners tumbling off what is essentially a cliff can attest. The cheese itself

becomes a hazard as it rolls up to 70mph, and a foam replica is now used.

Several historic people have been hailed – or blamed – for introducing the world to cheese rolling. Even the Phoenicians (the Mediterranean merchants of the first millennium BC) and the Romans have been mentioned. The truth is, we're not sure. The first written evidence comes from 1826, in a message by the Gloucester town crier, but it was already a long-established tradition by then, thought to go back to the 15th century. It may have marked the end of winter, celebrated a bountiful harvest, emerged from a pagan ritual, or have been a quirk about laying claim to grazing rights.



WHEN DID JEWISH COMMUNITIES EMERGE IN ENGLAND?



Just after the Norman Conquest. The first recorded Jews in England arrived around 1070 from Rouen, France, having been invited by William the Conqueror. He needed money, but making profits from moneylending was forbidden to Christians, so he looked to the Jews for help. And help they did. Jewish moneylenders were invaluable to William and his successors – so much so that all Jews became personal property of the king.

They accumulated vast wealth and lived in the biggest houses. That's not to say their position was secure,

though. Jews were taxed heavily and faced persecution and violence. One disturbing attack was the blood libel: unfounded accusations of Jews murdering children and using their blood to make unleavened bread for Passover.

Animosity built until Edward I expelled every Jew from England in 1290. They wouldn't return for nearly 400 years.

2x

Sudan has twice the number of pyramids as Egypt, though they tend to be smaller and with steeper sides. There are around 200 at the ancient city of Meroë alone.

WHO INVENTED THE CAN-CAN?



To think of the risqué dance, with plenty of petticoat and leg on show, is to evoke 19th-century Paris and the Moulin Rouge. And the French capital is certainly where the can-can high-kicked its way into popular culture, but we cannot-cannot know if it had a lone creator.

It evolved from another dance, the quadrille, and was intended for couples before taking on its familiar all-women chorus-line look. The dancers wore skirts, petticoats and black stockings, which – at a time when showing ankles was considered raunchy – made for a flustering experience.

Once described as a “whirlwind of pleasures and vices”, the can-can became a hit in Parisian dance halls in the 1830s. It was provocative – the name means ‘scandal’ – and a challenge to values of morality and repressed sexuality. Both dancers and onlookers were liable to arrest, but the can-can was never banned. The authorities couldn't keep a good thing – or the dancers' legs – down.



Where does 'hoist with your own petard' come from?



While we have Shakespeare to thank for popularising this idiom (along with all the others) in *Hamlet*, it refers to one of the more dangerous jobs on the 16th-century European battlefield.

At a siege, gates and walls could be breached with gunpowder-filled devices known as petards. The name comes from the French word for 'breaking wind'. Someone would have to sneak towards the target, hoist the primitive bomb into position and light the fuse, then run to safety. That was the plan, anyway. A host of things could set off an early explosion, and so the unfortunate chap could be 'hoist with his own petard'.

TIME BOMB
Petards are a blast from our 16th-century past



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ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in
the world of history over
the coming weeks



Churchill, Truman
and Stalin were all
smiles at the end of
WWII - that would
soon change



WHAT'S ON

You're joust in time to
catch the action p82



BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Eilean Donan
Castle p86



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POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your own photos of
historical landmarks...p92



EXHIBITION

Protect and Survive: Britain's Cold War Revealed

Spy Klaus Fuchs
was guilty of
passing atomic
secrets to Russia

From 4 April, National Archives, Kew
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/coldwar

The National Archives is hosting a Cold War season (until November), part of which includes a brand-new exhibition - opening 70 years after NATO was formed and ending with the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Original documents from the time will be on display highlighting the tensions felt across the country - including a letter from Winston Churchill to the Queen, and spy confessions. A range of events will accompany the exhibition including a talk by the former Director General of MI5, Dame Stella Rimington.





EVENT

Easter Joust

Hedingham Castle, Essex, 21-22 April
www.hedinghamcastle.co.uk/events/easter-joust-knights-of-middle-england

The joust has returned to Hedingham as the Knights of Middle England bring their spectacular show to the castle. The Earl of Warwick and his knights will have to defend the castle against the evil Black Knight. They are also bringing along Henry Hotspur, the UK's only rolling jousting horse, so anyone can try their hand at the medieval sport. Craft stalls, coconut shies, bird of prey displays, and archery will also be there so everyone can join in the fun. Booking online is advised.



Peterloo has come to be seen as a government-sanctioned attack on democracy

EXHIBITION

Disrupt? Peterloo and Protest

People's History Museum, Manchester, until 23 February 2020
www.phm.org.uk/exhibitions/disrupt-peterloo-and-protest

The story of the Peterloo Massacre is being explored to mark its 200th anniversary. More than ten people were killed and hundreds more were injured when cavalry charged on the group of peaceful protestors in Manchester, calling for parliamentary reform. Original artefacts from the protest will be on display and visitors will be encouraged to understand Peterloo's relevance today as well as the democratic campaigning that is ongoing two centuries later.



ABOVE: Items on view include a rare medal struck after the event

RIGHT: Anti-reform leaflets demonised those who called for change





Rare books and manuscripts used by alchemists are on show

EXHIBITION

Searching for the Elixir of Life

Royal College of Physicians
Edinburgh, until Summer 2019
bit.ly/2STxkgz

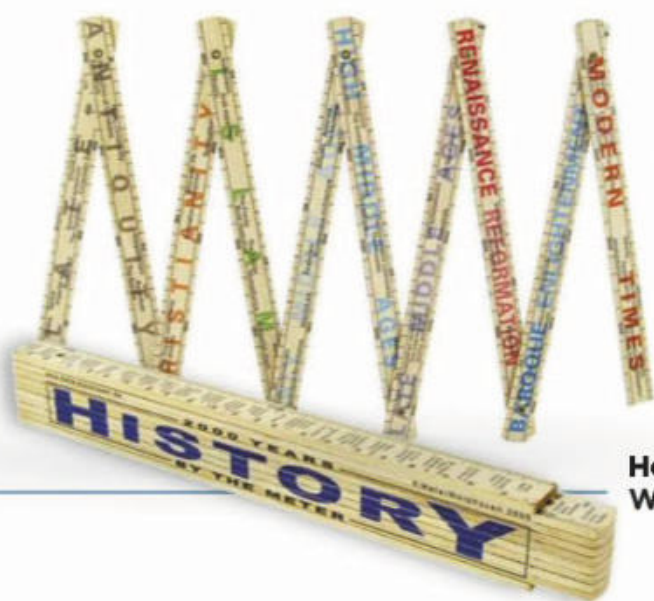
Before the Renaissance, the line between magic and science was blurred. Alchemists spent decades trying to turn base metals into gold and searching for the key to immortality by finding the elusive elixir of life. The mysteries and legacies of alchemy are explored in this free exhibition, including manuscripts and texts that alchemists believed held clues to aid in their search. Visitors are invited to see if they can crack the code of these ancient puzzles.

TO BUY

History by metre ruler

£12.99, available from
the British Museum, London
www.britishmuseumshoponline.org

Key historical dates will be much easier to remember thanks to this handy ruler with a 2,000-year timeline. As you measure everyday objects, the passage of time will be unfolded. Ideal for children, teachers and history buffs alike.

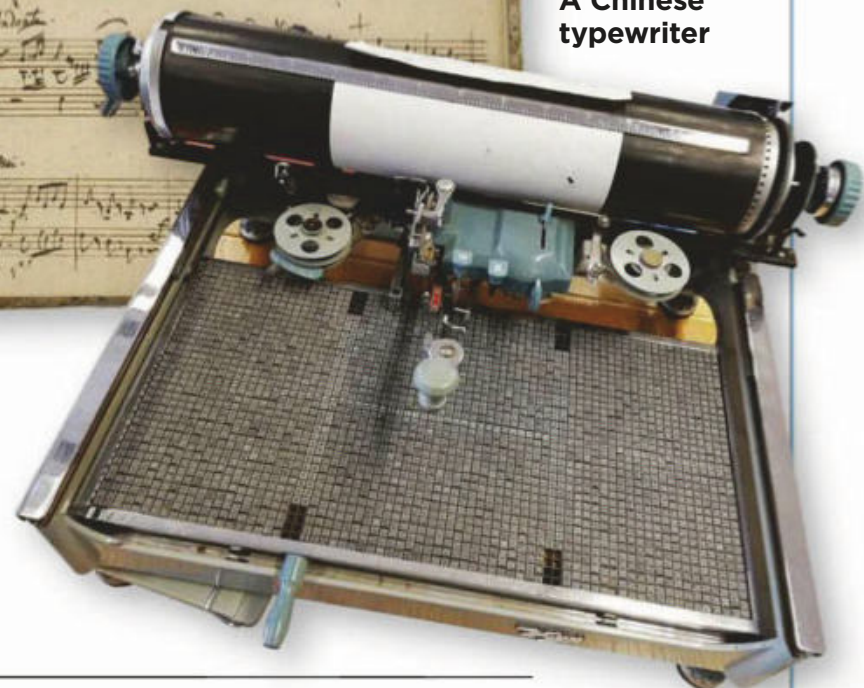


How do you measure time?
With a ruler of course!



LEFT:
Mozart's
handwriting
and musical
notation

BELOW:
A Chinese
typewriter



EXHIBITION

Writing: Making Your Mark

The British Library, London, 26 April to 27 August
www.bl.uk/events/writing-making-your-mark

One of humanity's greatest achievements, the art of writing, is being celebrated at a new exhibition. This journey spans 5,000 years and tells the story of writing's evolution from Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics through to digital tools such as email. More than 100 objects will be on display, highlighting some of the greatest examples of the written word including James Joyce's annotated copy of *Ulysses*, Japanese calligraphy and Alexander Fleming's notebook. Visitors are tasked with reflecting on what the future of writing will be in our increasingly digital world.

EVENT

Fearing the Beast: Animal Attacks and Medical Practice in the Middle Ages

The Old Operating Theatre,
Central London, 18 April, 7pm
bit.ly/2luLBLL

Animal attacks were a constant, sometimes imaginary, threat in the Middle Ages. Literature of the time shows there was a real fear of the strange symptoms an attack could cause. In this talk Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle describes the way medieval people prevented such encounters as well as the bizarre ways in which they attempted to treat animal bites.



ABOVE: The Old
Operating Theatre is
also a museum

RIGHT: Man's best
friend often posed
the greatest risk



▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ **Titanic Family Day** - Craft activities and object handling with a *Titanic* theme. SeaCity Museum, Southampton, 13 April, www.seacitymuseum.co.uk/events
- ▶ **Taxi: The story from A to B** - A look at the history of the taxi, from horse-drawn carts to the famous London black cab. Coventry Transport Museum, until 12 May, bit.ly/2E3cMro

REPAIR JOB

The Eilean Donan ruins were significantly rebuilt after World War I. With the plans of the original castle only discovered late into the restoration, the build was largely based on guesswork.

Its picture-postcard setting makes the castle arguably the most recognisable building in the Highlands



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

EILEAN DONAN CASTLE, Scottish Highlands

This idyllically located castle holds the secrets of a troubled, violent past

GETTING THERE:

Eilean Donan Castle is situated near the village of Dornie, in the western Ross-shire highlands, off the A87.

**OPENING TIMES AND PRICES:**

10am to 4pm, 1 February to 23 March and 27 October to 30 December; 10am to 6pm, 24 March to 26 October. Tickets are £10 for adults and £6 for children.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.eileandonancastle.com

One of the most photographed spots in Scotland, Eilean Donan sits on its own tidal island where three lochs meet. Nestled in the Kintail region of the Highlands, this picture-perfect castle was a romantic ruin for nearly 200 years before it was returned to its former splendour. Despite it looking medieval, the current structure only dates back to the early 20th century, although it has been built to resemble its original form.

The island is believed to have been named after the Irish saint Donnán ('eilean' means 'island' in Scottish Gaelic). Donnán came to Scotland in around 580 AD and tried to convert the Picts

living in north-west Scotland to Christianity. He was killed in 617 AD and many churches in the local area have been dedicated to him. It's thought that he may have created a religious community on the island. Until the 1920s, there was evidence of an earlier Iron Age fort on the site, but later construction has destroyed or covered any evidence of this now.

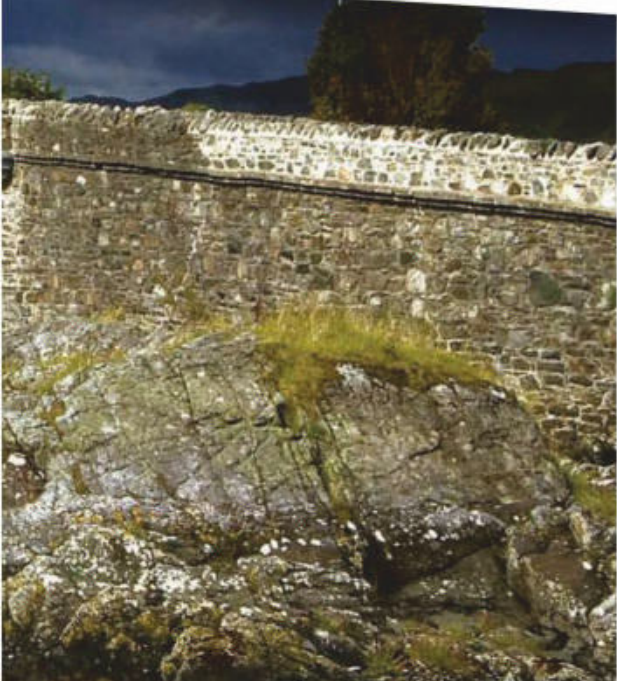
During the reign of Alexander II of Scotland in the 13th century, a castle was built on the island. The lands of Kintail had been ravaged by Viking raiders who had by then settled in the north of Scotland and Western isles. The island was part of the Sea Kingdom of the Lord of the Isles and was seen as

the perfect defensive location. This medieval castle – much larger than the current keep – had many towers and a curtain wall which filled the whole of the island.

The castle then fell into the hands of the Clan MacKenzie; legend has it that the famed warrior Robert the Bruce sheltered here after his defeat at the Battle of Methven in 1306.

In 1331, the castle was the location of a rather gruesome event when Regent of Scotland, Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray, planned a visit to Eilean Donan. Ahead of his arrival, 50 wrongdoers were rounded up and executed with their heads displayed on the castle walls.

The bridge connecting the castle to the mainland was only built in the early 20th century



THE MAIN GATE

A portcullis greets visitors to the castle and murder holes can still be seen. These would have been used to guard the inhabitants against enemy invasion.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



THE BANQUETING HALL

This Great Hall has a 15th-century-style fireplace and the ceiling beams are made from Douglas fir trees which were shipped from British Columbia.



THE BILLETING ROOM

This beautiful tunnel-vaulted room features a tableau that tells the story of the final construction of the castle during the 20th century.



THE KITCHEN

A reconstruction has been made in the castle's kitchen showing the cook, butler and lady of the house getting ready for a party in the 1930s.



CLAN MACRAE WAR MEMORIAL

A memorial dedicated to those Macrae family members killed during World War I is engraved with the poem *In Flanders Fields*.

“The castle’s stunning backdrop has made it ideal as a film location”

By the end of the 14th century, the castle had been reduced to a fifth of its original size. It's unknown why this happened, but a possibility is that it was becoming too large to defend. Around this time, the Clan Macrae began to permanently settle in the area of Kintail and became constables of the castle.

UNDER ATTACK

The Jacobite Rebellions – an attempt to restore the House of Stuart to the British throne and remove the Hanoverians – saw the almost complete destruction of the castle in 1719. Much of the Scottish Highlands remained loyal to the Stuarts and the castle was

garrisoned by Spanish soldiers who had been sent to support the Jacobite cause. When three English ships were sent to the castle to negotiate, the soldiers opened fire on the ships, resulting in Eilean Donan being bombarded for three days. There were more than 300 barrels of gunpowder stored in the castle and this was ignited, demolishing much of the structure. A Spanish soldier is said to still haunt the castle, holding his head under his arm.

Eilean Donan then lay neglected as a ruin for nearly 200 years, until Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae-Gilstrap, a distant relative of the last MacRae constable, bought the island in 1911, restoring it to its

former glory. A bridge was added to connect the island with the mainland and the castle opened to the public in 1955. The plans of the pre-18th-century castle weren't discovered until the reconstruction was nearly complete, so much of the work was in keeping with the style of 20th-century castle revivals. The castle has oak-beam ceilings throughout, with a recreated 14th-century tower house and portcullis.

The castle's stunning backdrop has made it ideal as a film location. It was used as the Scottish headquarters of MI6 in the James Bond film *The World is Not Enough*, as well as in the fantasy adventure *Highlander*. 📍

WHY NOT VISIT...

Other historical sites in the western Scottish Highlands

GLENFINNAN VIADUCT

This railway viaduct travels through some breathtaking countryside and has also made appearances in the *Harry Potter* film series.

www.westcoastrailways.co.uk

PLOCKTON

While retaining its Highland atmosphere, this loch-side village has an idyllic tropical appearance, complete with palm trees.

www.visitplockton.com

GLENELG BROCHS

These Iron-Age dry-stone towers are more than 2,000 years old and are well preserved.

www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/glenelg-brochs-dun-telve-and-dun-troddan

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

**BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**

Shadow King: The Life and Death of Henry VI

By Lauren Johnson

Head of Zeus, £30, hardback, 736 pages

There are plenty of things to learn when you're just nine months old – and it's fair to say that how to rule a country isn't usually one of them. Yet this was the position facing the infant Henry VI in 1422, and as Lauren Johnson's new biography of the king explores, this childhood had a lasting impact on both his character and reign. Charting how his positive attributes as a man often, sadly, didn't translate into his strength as a ruler, she explores how a pacifist came to be plagued by war, and how those around him sought to gain control.

Henry's supporters are executed after their defeat at Tewkesbury in 1471, the final attempt restore the Lancastrian king to the throne



“There are plenty of things to learn when you're just nine months old, and it's fair to say that ruling a country isn't usually one of them”

Henry weds Margaret of Anjou, a determined woman who would prove to have greater mettle than her husband



MEET THE AUTHOR

Lauren Johnson tells us why she wrote about a historical figure who was too nice for his own good and who history remembers for his failures rather than his successes

What first led you to write a biography of Henry VI?

For someone who had such a major impact on our history (losing the Hundred Years' War, kicking off the Wars of the Roses), there has been surprisingly little interest in Henry VI in popular history. He's usually just shrugged off as 'mad' or 'weak'. I wanted to find out how he became the man he was, because a lot of the disasters of the 15th century can be traced back to his character and decisions.

Is it fair to say that Henry, while a great man, just wasn't cut out to be a king?

'Great' might be pushing it, but Henry was certainly kind-hearted, generous, loyal and well-intentioned – perhaps the only medieval king I can actually imagine liking if I met him. The real tragedy is that he was a good man, completely devoted to peace, who caused unprecedented levels of bloodshed by his own inadequacies.

What were the key moments in his failure as a leader?

People remember his mental collapse in 1453, which led to him being effectively catatonic for 16 months – but, as important as Henry's mental ill health was, I think, the key moments of failure were when he made a conscious choice to absent himself. In 1450, as Henry's advisers were being assassinated across the country and London was threatened by a rebel army, he fled the capital rather than stand and face the demands of his people. That was a huge mistake, as London then had to be violently wrested back from the rebels.

Henry's cowardice gave the Duke of York greater confidence that he could push for

control of government – which was a first step towards the Wars of the Roses. It's also interesting that when Henry fled, his wife Margaret of Anjou stayed to meet the rebel army – for the first time, she showed she was made of sterner stuff than him.

Who are the other key figures in the story?

Most people have probably heard of his wife Margaret of Anjou, and his rival for the throne Richard, Duke of York. What was

interesting for me was exploring figures who have been largely forgotten. The constant backbiting between Henry's uncles in his childhood was hugely important in how Henry developed. They are such interesting characters, too: the ambitious, bellicose and libidinous Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester and the capable but less charismatic John, Duke of Bedford. The power-play between those uncles and Henry is fascinating.

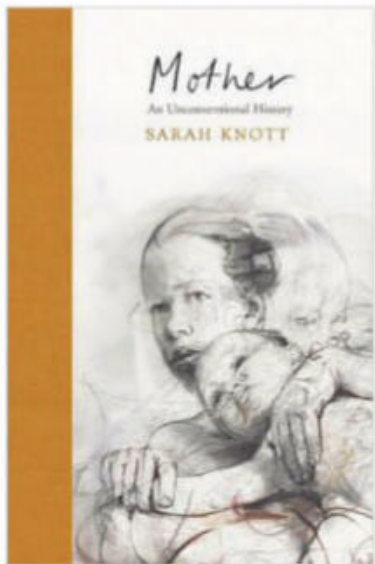
What new impression would you like readers of your book to have of Henry and the times in which he lived?

That none of this was inevitable. We read history backwards and we know that in the end, Henry was deposed by the Yorkists and murdered in the Tower. We therefore imagine that his personal failings, and his illness,

were always going to happen. In fact, there was every possibility that Henry VI could have been a healthy, successful king of England (if not necessarily of France). His upbringing shaped him into a conflict-averse pacifist, and the traumatic events of his life battered him into profound depression and inertia. He was a king, but he was also just a man.



“Henry's upbringing shaped him into a pacifist, and traumatic events battered him into profound depression and inertia”

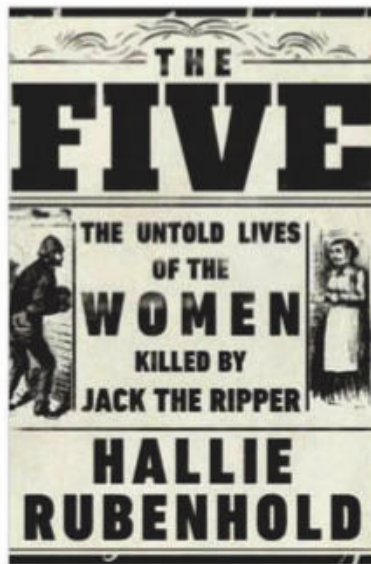


Mother: An Unconventional History

By Sarah Knott

Viking, £14.99, hardback, 352 pages

As Sarah Knott notes in this personal, wide-ranging exploration of motherhood, she is more usually to be found tracing political revolutions and great matters of state. Here she blends that research skill with insightful, evocative vignettes from her own experiences as a mother. Spanning both sides of the Atlantic from the 18th century to the present day, this is an unusual, richly textured look at women's experiences of raising children.

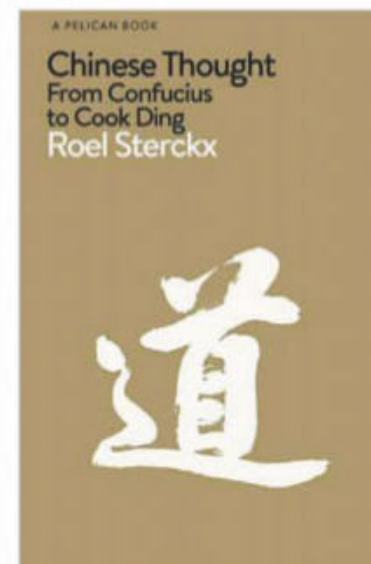


The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper

By Hallie Rubenhold

Doubleday, £16.99, hardback, 432 pages

Mary Ann, Annie, Mary Jane, Elizabeth and Catherine – these women are bound together by a shared fate, that of being murdered by Victorian killer Jack the Ripper. This new history places their lives, rather than deaths, centre stage, exploring the poverty, hardship and isolation that characterised their experiences. This is sensitive, sobering stuff – a welcome antidote to the salacious focus on their killer.

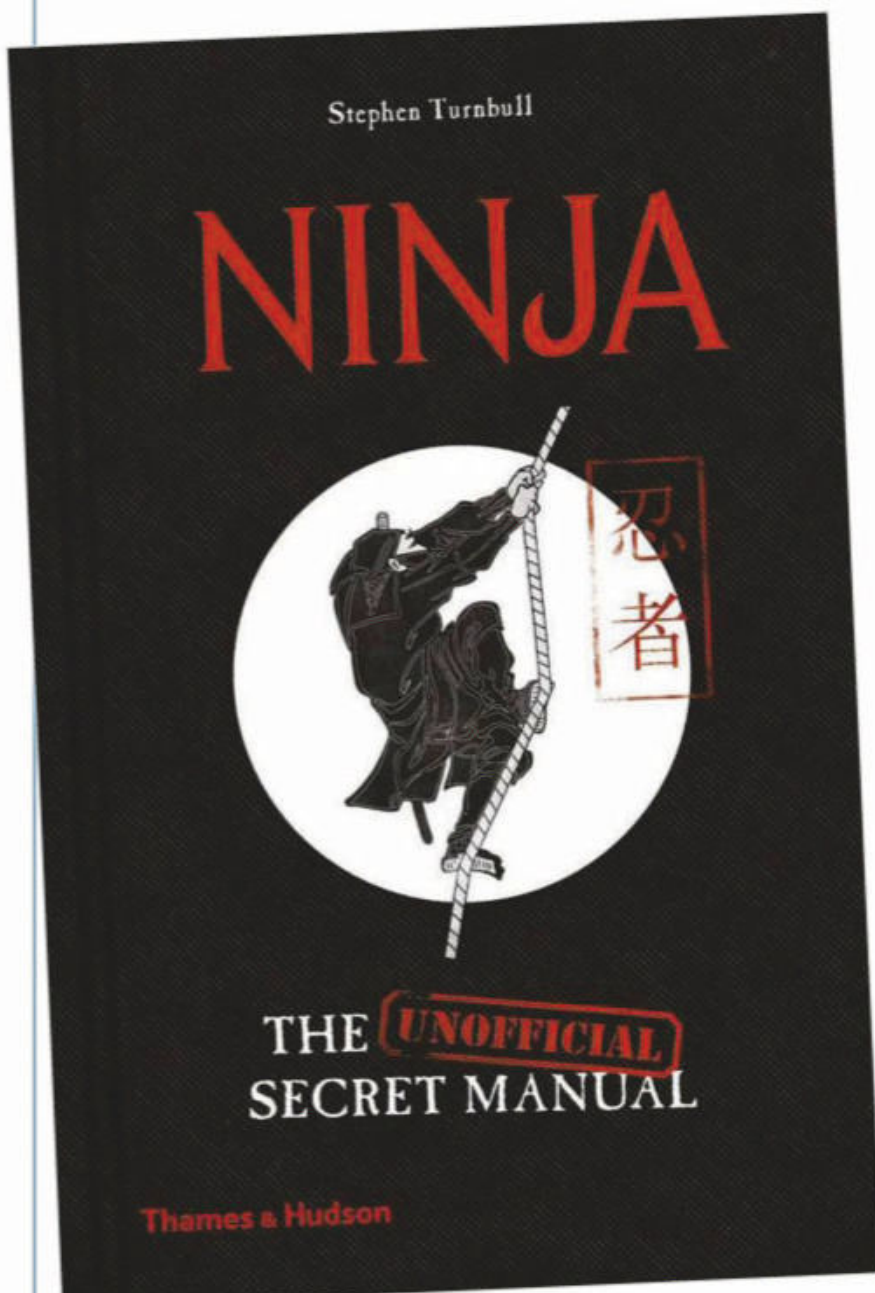


Chinese Thought from Confucius to Cook Ding

By Roel Sterckx

Pelican, £20, hardback, 512 pages

Ancient civilisation, modern economic powerhouse: China has a long history that it's arguably vital to understand if you want to make sense of the modern world. This account of the nation's key thinkers includes the well-known (Confucius) with the less familiar (essentially, nearly everyone else). It's far from dry, too, outlining both the ways in which these philosophies were influenced by, and shaped, the world around them.

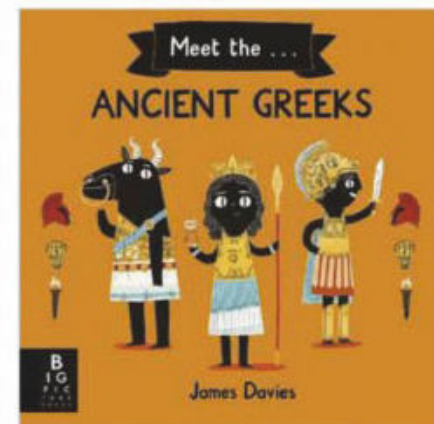


Ninja: The Unofficial Secret Manual

By Stephen Turnbull

Thames & Hudson, £12.95, hardback, 208 pages

From children's toys to big-budget blockbusters, the image of the Japanese ninja remains enduringly popular. But what do we actually know about the real lives of these skilled operatives, whose roles fell midway between spy, assassin, mercenary and fighter? This concise, accessible overview, aimed at all ages, takes us back to 18th-century Japan to find out, combining a light-hearted 'how-to' approach with contemporary documents including prints and training manuals.



Meet the... Ancient Greeks

By James Davies

Big Picture Press, £9.99, hardback, 72 pages

Keen to get your children interested in history? This friendly, vivid introduction to the world of the Ancient Greeks – part of a series from this author and illustrator that also explores pirates, Egyptians and Romans – is a great place to start. Presented in an irreverent, bite-size format, but packing a surprising amount of detail into its page-count, it covers everything from a typical Greek home to how hedgehogs helped out with the laundry.

The Story of Kensington Palace



MERRELL

**VISUAL
BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**

The Story of Kensington Palace

By Tracy Borman

Merrell, £24.95, hardback, 160 pages

As a foremost Tudor expert and joint chief curator for Historic Royal Palaces, there can be no better guide to London's Kensington Palace than Tracy Borman. The historian is on fine form in this visual history of the royal home and the dramas and intrigues of court life there since it was built in the 17th century. It takes readers from William and Mary through an illustrious roll-call of subsequent residents: Anne, several Georges, and – more recently – the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

**“Visual history of
the royal home, and
dramas of court, since
the 17th century”**



The Story of Kensington Palace



the King's Palace...
...the King's Palace...
...the King's Palace...

Kensington in the reign of George I, 1714-27



...the King's Palace...
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The Story of Kensington Palace

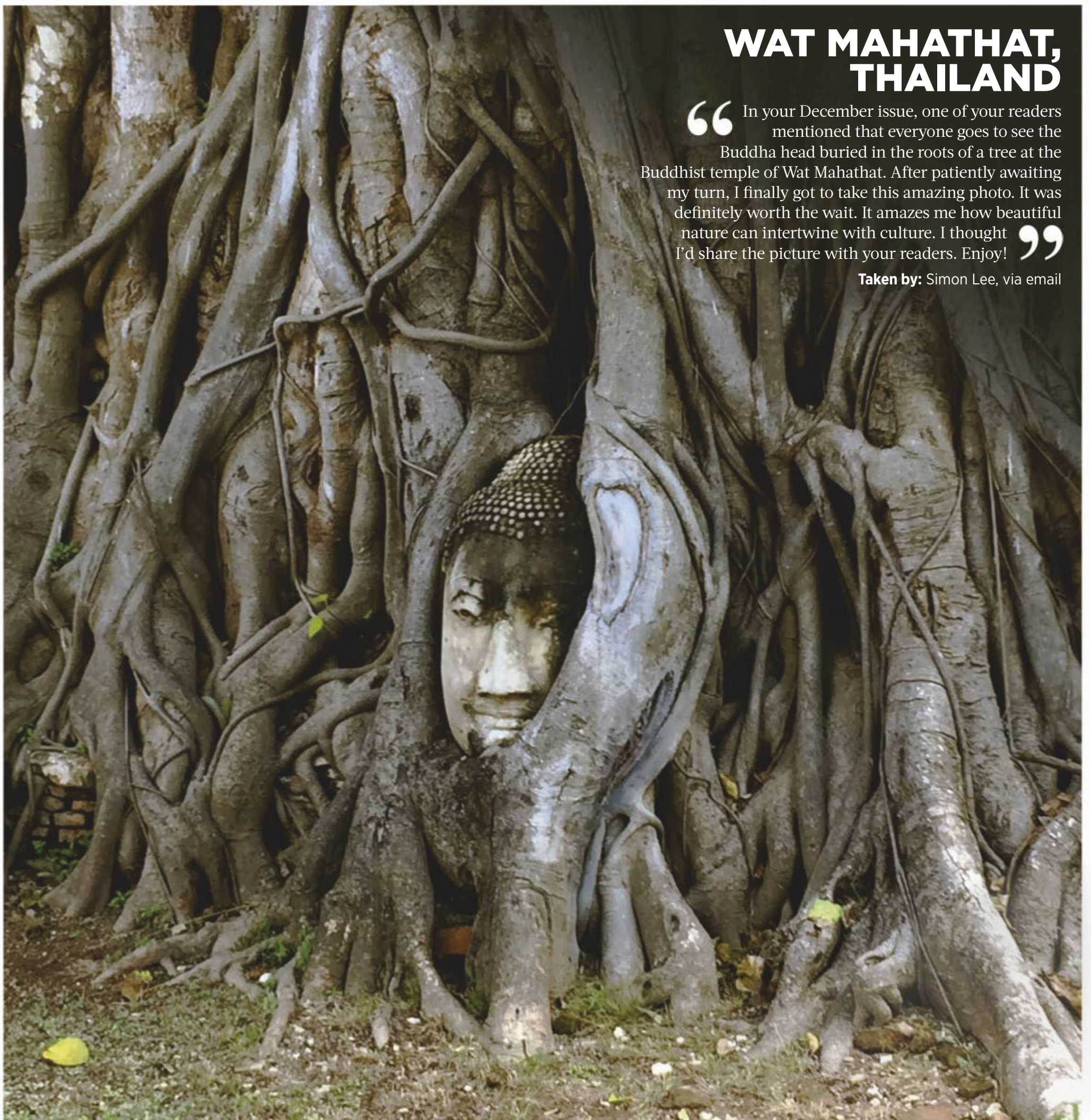
Victorian Kensington, 1827-28

With three centuries of continuous occupation, Kensington Palace has played host to some of the most important events in the history of the royal family

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

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message us on Facebook or use [#historyrevpostcards](#) on Twitter and Instagram

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WAT MAHATHAT, THAILAND

“ In your December issue, one of your readers mentioned that everyone goes to see the Buddha head buried in the roots of a tree at the Buddhist temple of Wat Mahathat. After patiently awaiting my turn, I finally got to take this amazing photo. It was definitely worth the wait. It amazes me how beautiful nature can intertwine with culture. I thought I’d share the picture with your readers. Enjoy! ”

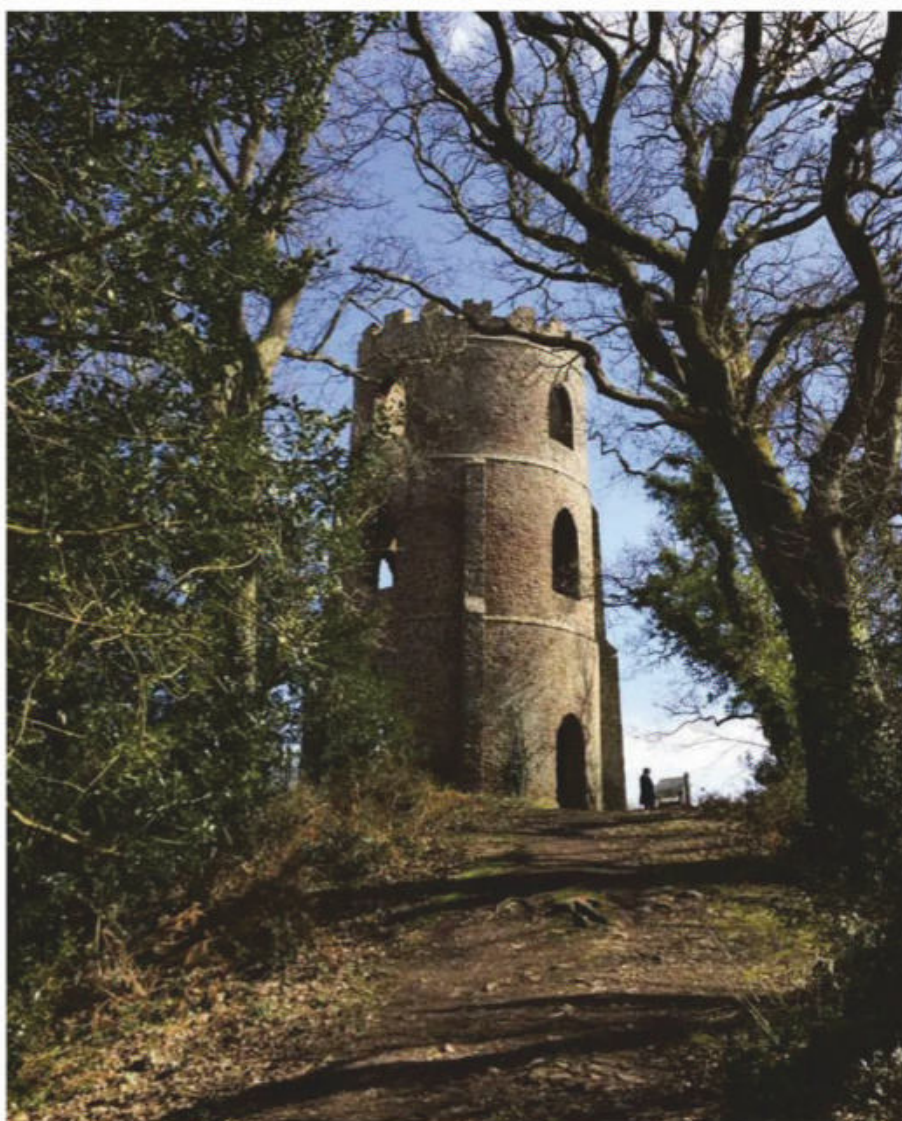
Taken by: Simon Lee, via email



CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, SPAIN

“ The photo shows a sculpture of a group of pilgrim figures by Vincent Galbete on Alto del Perdon (The Hill of Forgiveness) between Pamplona and Puente la Reina. The hill offers beautiful 360-degree views looking back towards the city of Pamplona and onwards across the rich plains of Navarre. One of the sculpted steeds bears an engraving “Donde se cruza el camino del viento con el de las estrellas”, which translates as “Where the way of the wind crosses the path of the stars”. No truer words were said – the wind on this beautiful day could have blown us straight off the peak. ”

Taken by: Caoimhe Rice, via email



DUNSTER, SOMERSET

“ I took this distant photo of my partner Susi just before Easter last year. We walked up to this old folly tower, which was built by the Luttrell family in 1775 and is just a short walk from Dunster Castle, their family seat. It was a crisp early spring day – cold and clear air always seems to make natural colour sharper. ”

Taken by: Ray Tew, via email

FEELING INSPIRED?

Send your snaps to us and we'll feature a selection every issue.
photos@historyrevealed.com

READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions
on history and our magazine

THE MYSTERY OF TIME

I particularly enjoy your monthly feature called Time Capsule. As a history teacher, it is hard to get students to understand that, even though we study events in history in a linear fashion, most often these events are happening in parallel.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

simultaneously. So, I appreciate how Time Capsule gives a glimpse of a variety of events

“It can be hard for my students to see the overlap between events, movements and ideas”

It can be hard for them to see the overlap between events, movements, and ideas since our curriculum presents history as one thing following another. The most obvious example is the late 20th century, which sees the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement in the US, and decolonisation all happening

happening all over the world
at the same time.

Might I suggest a future topic for the magazine? I'm intrigued by the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar - a little known story of how time, and the way it's measured, was manipulated.

 Mandy Cowgill
Indianapolis, USA

VINDICATION FOR RICHARD?

As a devoted Ricardian, I read the article ‘Who Killed the Princes in the Tower?’ with great interest and enthusiasm.

Yet again, I was utterly disappointed how the king Richard III was referred to. Richard III was a talented military leader, and as monarch, he passed some good laws. As

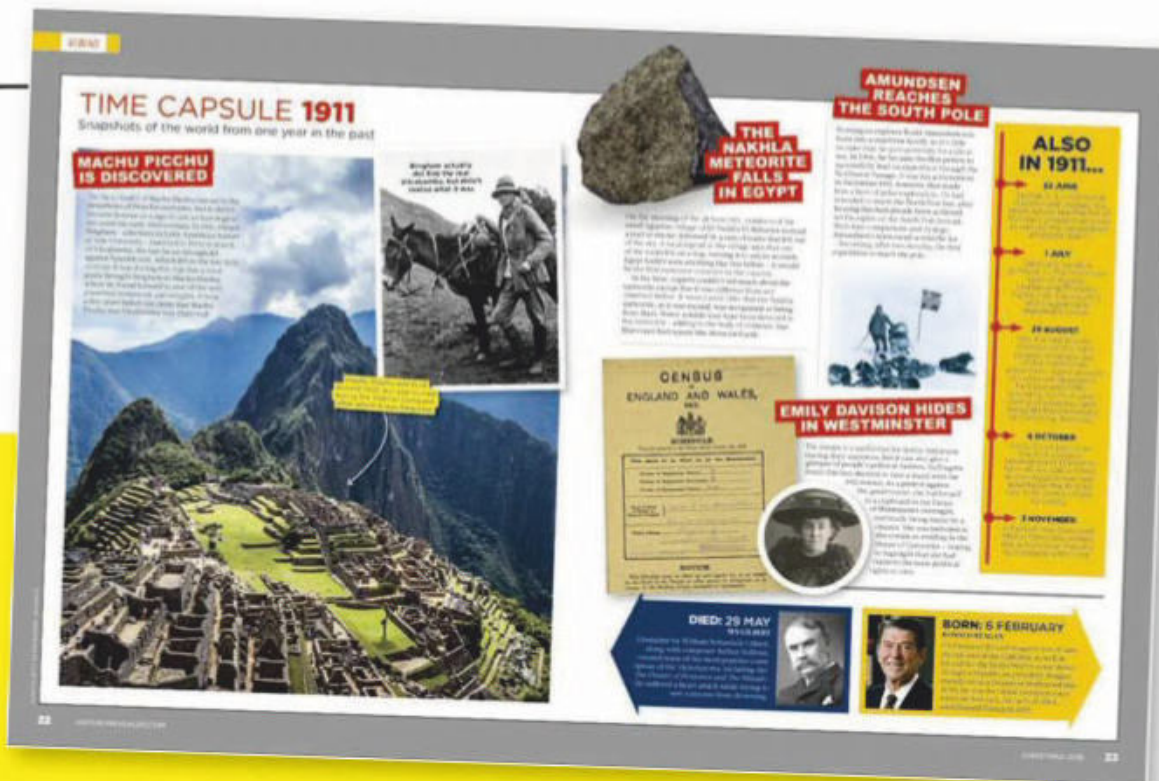
for the accusation that he killed or had the princes in the Tower killed – I think he was framed. As mentioned in your article, Henry VII could have produced the boys' bodies from the Tower

and taken them for honourable burial or revealed that they still lived. He did neither. I think it was very convenient for him to blame Richard III for whatever happen to the boys, as their presence would have challenged him for the throne.

After the moving occasion of his re-burial in Leicester Cathedral, the world has realised that this monstrous Richard III is not accurate reflection. The real Richard III was a much more nuanced figure.

There is The Missing Princes Project that aims to undertake

CASE UNCLOSED



CONCURRENT AFFAIRS

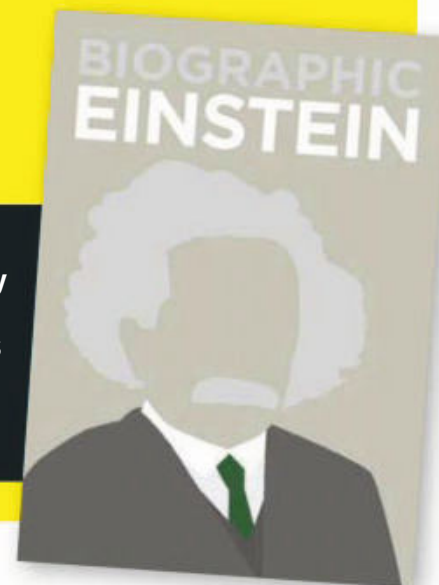
CONCURRENT AFFAIRS
Reader (and history teacher) Mandy Cowgill appreciates how Time Capsule shows world events happening in parallel

Editor's reply:

We are very pleased to hear that you enjoy Time Capsule – highlighting the sometimes surprising events that occurred at the same time was our intention. Thanks very much for the suggestion. As it happens, we will be covering the

fascinating tale of the origins of the Gregorian calendar in the Q&A section of our next issue.

Mandy wins a handback copy of Brian Clegg's *Biographic Einstein*, published by the Ammonite Press. The book takes the 50 defining facts, dates, thoughts, habits and achievements of Albert Einstein's life and uses infographics to convey all of them in vivid snapshots



new research into the enduring mystery of disappearance of the sons of Edward IV. It will be led by Philippa Langley, who spearheaded the search for Richard III's remains.

✉ **Dr R Pacak**
Via email

Editor's reply:

Thanks very much for your letter. Unfortunately, the fate of the Princes in the Tower is one of those mysteries that we will probably never get to the bottom of.

WOMEN OF WONDER

Having just read through your special edition *Amazing Women in History*, it was a pleasure to read and enjoy the stories of all those selected for the publication. However, there are certain names omitted which if you print a second edition should be added.

Taking the names in date order, it should, in my opinion, include Lucretia Borgia, Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medici from the medieval era. In the 16th century, there's Mary of Guise and her daughter Mary, Queen of Scots. The latter, although a disastrous monarch in her lifetime, was still able to put the shakes under Elizabeth I, and her son James I brought a new dynasty – the Stuarts – onto the throne of the United Kingdom.

The aviator Amelia Earhart was included, but what about Jean Batten or Amy Johnson? Both were outstanding in an age of enterprise, ambition and courage.

Thanks for this special edition. It was a great read and an extension of knowledge for the ordinary reader.

✉ **Duncan McVee**
Darwen, Lancashire

Editor's reply:

You're right to suggest that there are so many more amazing women that we could have included if space and time constraints were not an issue. We hope to continue telling more amazing stories in future issues.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Thank you so much for sending me *The Century Girls* which I won in a recent crossword competition. I'm looking forward to reading about the very different lives of the girls. I really enjoy doing the crosswords, even if I don't always send them in.

I've subscribed for several years and find the magazine perfect for me – neither dumbed down nor does it expect me to have a degree. I only reached O Level. That shows my age!

✉ **Margaret Bell**
Sidcup, Kent



REACH FOR THE SKIES

The record-breaking aviator Amelia Earhart was just one of the pioneers featured in our *Amazing Women in History* special edition

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ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 64 are:
Michelle Bruce, Edinburgh
Barrie Vinten, Rugby
BP Whitlock, Towcester

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *The Mythology Book*, published by Dorling Kindersley.

HISTORY
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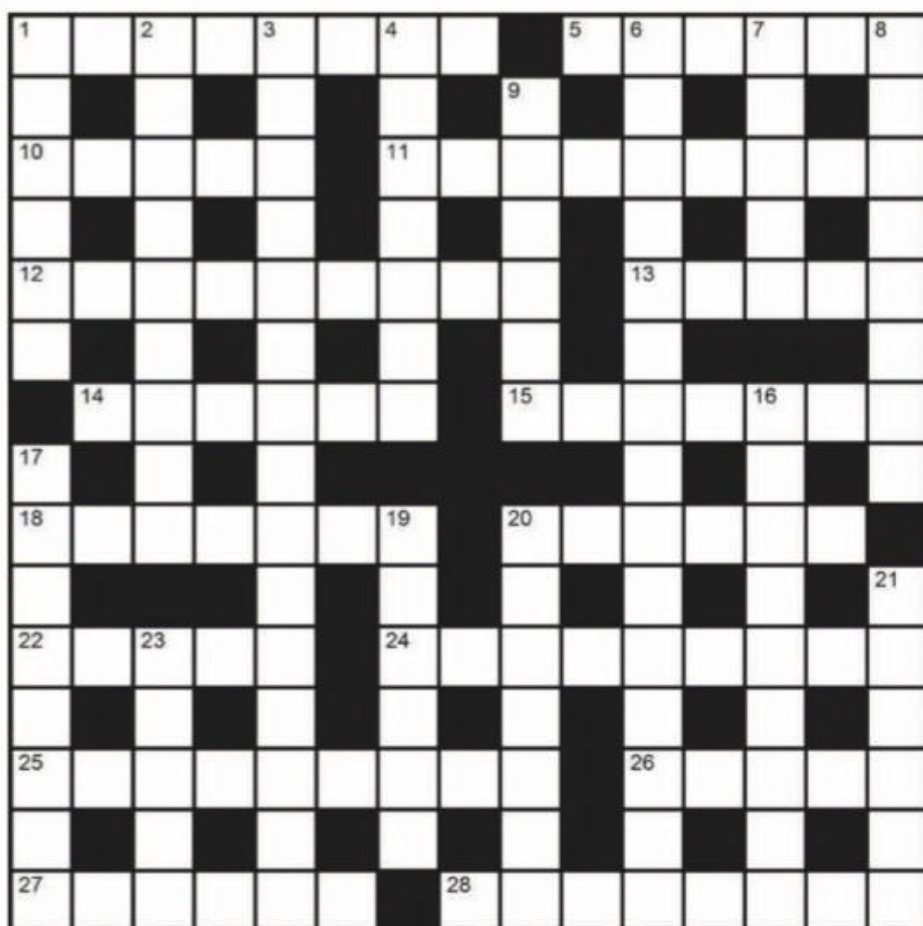
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CROSSWORD N° 67

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1** Type of well named for its association with the medieval Carthusian monks of Artois (8)
5 Archaic name for the nursery game of peek-a-boo (2-4)
10 Grouping of Native American tribes that includes the Lakota and Dakota (5)
11 Douglas ____ (1880–1964), US five-star general and Chief of Staff of the army (9)
12 Old name for continental Southeast Asia (9)
13 Arabic word used for the community of Islam (5)
14 Balkan kingdom formally established in 1882 (6)
15 Preston ____ (1898–1959), US screenwriter and film-maker best known for screwball (7)

- 18** Medieval name for the Yorkshire town of Pontefract; also a type of fish (7)
20 Harold ____ (1916–95), British Prime Minister from 1964–70 and 1974–76 (6)
22 RD ____ (1927–89), Scottish psychiatrist and writer on mental health (5)
24 Supposed surname of Uther, father of King Arthur (9)
25 The addressees of Paul's epistle in the ninth book of the New Testament (9)
26 In Greek myth, the Muse of love poetry (5)
27 *Whose Life Is It ____?* a TV play by Brian Clark (6)
28 *The ____*, 1967 classic film starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft (8)

CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of **History Revealed**) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy.

DOWN

- 1** City designated as the permanent capital of the Republic of Texas in 1839 (6)
2 Capital of Norway during the Viking Age (9)
3 Former dynastic name of the ruling house known since 1917 as 20 Down (4–6–5)
4 Portuguese town besieged by the Spanish in 1762 and the French in 1810 (7)
6 Novel by Charles Dickens, published 1864–65 (3,6,6)
7 Ancient town near Runnymede in Surrey (5)
8 Louisiana ____, US acquisition of land in 1803 (8)
9 “This railroad unites the two great ____ of the world” – inscription on the Golden Spike in Utah, 1869 (6)
16 ____ Cavendish (1757–1806), Duchess of Devonshire and Georgian socialite (9)
17 Latin term for a formal defence of one's position, such as that of John Henry Newman in 1864 (8)
19 Astaire-Rogers musical comedy from 1935 (3,3)
20 Name adopted by the UK's ruling dynasty in 1917 (7)
21 City of central India, former capital of the princely state of the Maratha Holkars (6)
23 Island in the Inner Hebrides, part of the Gaelic kingdom of Dál Riata (5)

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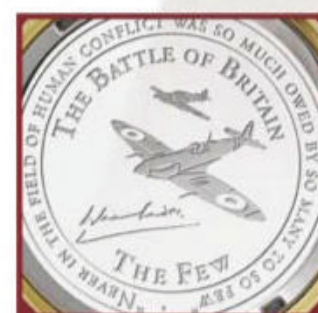
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